

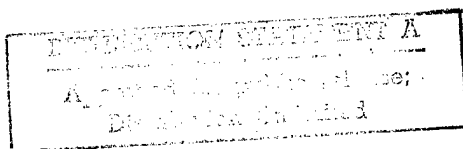
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21 October 1983

Southeast Asia Report

No. 1357



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21 October 1983

SOUTHEAST ASIA REPORT

No. 1357

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JAPANESE DIPLOMATIC OFFICE ESTABLISHED IN BRUNEI

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 31 Aug 83 p 3

[Text] JAPAN has recently established a diplomatic representative office in Brunei, the *Borneo Bulletin* reported in Miri, Sarawak, yesterday.

According to the Brunei-based weekly, the Japanese representative is Mr Yutaka Shimotomo, 32. He was previously his country's vice-consul in Kota Kinabalu.

Japan's relations with the sultanate have been mainly confined to the purchase of liquefied natural gas and oil.

Mitsubishi Corporation holds one-third of the equity of Brunei LNG Ltd and Brunei Cold Gas Ltd buys and transports LNG to Japan.

Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand have set up their representative offices in the sultanate last year.

The Malaysian and Singapore offices were later upgraded to High Commissions.

Indonesia is the only Asean country which has yet to set up a diplomatic mission in Brunei.

CSO: 4200/56

GURHKAS TO REMAIN IN BRUNEI

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 5 Sep 83 p 2

[Text]

BRITAIN has allowed its one battalion of Gurkha troops in Brunei to remain after the agreement on its stationing in the sultanate ends this month, the *Borneo Bulletin* reported over the weekend.

The Brunei-based weekly, quoting British High Commissioner Francis Cornish, however, did not specify how long the Gurkhas would remain.

He said: "The UK government wants the Gurkhas to stay and it will be surprising if, at the end of September when the current accord runs out, they don't."

Defence talks which touched on the Gurkhas' future took place between Sultan Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah and UK Foreign Minister Lord Belstead in April.

Lord Belstead said after the meeting both parties had reached "substantial agreement" but there were still remaining issues on the Gurkhas to be resolved.

The defence talks, which had been postponed twice, also discussed the question of Britain continuing to assist the Brunei army and the provision of training areas for UK forces.

Britain will relinquish its responsibility in defence and foreign affairs to Brunei at the end of this year when it gains independence.

Mr Cornish replaced Mr Arthur Watson who reportedly left Brunei following the Sultan's displeasure over his handling of the defence talks.

Meanwhile, *Radio Brunei* quoted the Sultan as saying that a person would have to live in Brunei for at least 25 years before he's eligible to be considered for citizenship.

The Sultan told at a Brunei Chinese Chamber of Commerce dinner to mark his 37th birthday that this would include 20 years on permanent resident status. — Bernama

CSO: 4200/56

TIN PLATE PROJECT TO MAKE COUNTRY SELF-SUFFICIENT

Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 30 Aug 83 p 33

[Text]

JAKARTA: Indonesia plans a tin plate factory with an initial annual capacity of 130,000 tonnes which will make it self-sufficient in the product by 1988, officials at the State-owned tin company, PT Timah, said.

Domestic tin plate consumption is projected to reach 200,000 tonnes by 1990 and over 300,000 tonnes by 2000, president director of PT Timah Nusantara, Kasmir Batubara said.

Last year Indonesia imported almost 119,000 tonnes, after 111,000 in 1981, to cover consumption needs.

The factory, a joint venture between PT Timah which has a 52 per cent stake, the State-owned Krakatau Steel and the privately-owned PT Nusamba companies, is due to come on stream in 1986.

The plant, located at Cilegon, West Java, will be built by a consortium headed by Mannesmann Demag AG and Hitachi Zosen Corp.

Mr Batubara said he hopes to boost Indonesian tin plate consumption which lags far behind that of its neighbours.

Per capita consumption is below one kg compared with between 150 and 300 kg in neighbouring countries, he said.

Company officials said they hope to raise usage one to two kg per capita, without specifying the period involved.

The largest tin plate consumer in Indonesia is the canning industry which used 113,500 tonnes last year.

"We see our task as one of education. We've got to, for example, convince Indonesians that cans are better than banana leaves for packaging," Mr Batubara said.

But industry sources said a switch away from cans to plastic, cardboard or aluminium containers could check the growth of the Indonesian tin plate industry.

The Government already rejected two private applications to build tin plate factories, with a combined capacity of 200,000 tonnes.

But Mr Batubara said if consumption expands dramatically, the private sector may be used.

One or two new lines could be brought on-stream if necessary to bring the plant's capacity in line with consumption increases, he added.

The plant will standardise quality and price and its establishment may also be accompanied by restrictions on imports of tin plate, the sources said.

Mr Batubara said domestic end-users of tin plate have had quality and price problems with overseas suppliers in the past.

Imports would be stopped by a ban or some form of tariff system, he added.

There is no chance the tin plate project will be affected by President Suharto's project re-phasing plans as tin plate production has been given high priority status by the Government, he said. — Reuters.

BRIEFS

LNG TANKER CHARTER AGREEMENT--"An LNG tanker chartering contract between Pertamina and two Indonesian companies to transport LNG to South Korea was signed in Jakarta on 9 September." The two Indonesian companies won the tender to supply two LNG tankers of 60,000 DWT each to transport some 2 million tons of LNG to South Korea per year. "The two tankers will be handed over to Pertamina at the end of 1986 for operations during a period of 20 years, which is the LNG sale period to South Korea." [Summary] [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 9 Sep 83 BK]

GAS DEPOSIT DISCOVERY--Pertamina's public relations officer has announced that Mobil (Patek) contractor, a Mobil Oil subsidiary operating under a production-sharing contract with Pertamina, discovered gas at an exploration well in North Aceh. The gas-producing exploration well is located 38 km southeast of the Arun gas field and is the first exploration well drilled in a new Mobil Oil exploration area under a contract signed on 12 February 1981. [Excerpts] [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 9 Sep 83 BK]

HOUSE SPEAKER RECEIVES POLISH PARLIAMENTARIANS--Indonesia still maintains an independent and active foreign policy, and it wishes to foster a firm foreign relationship with all nations. The parliament speaker, Amir Makhmud, said this afternoon when receiving a courtesy call by a Polish parliamentary delegation, who is on a weeklong official visit to Indonesia at the invitation of the Indonesian House of Representatives. Amir Makhmud also stated that Indonesia does not recognize the division of power in state administration, but there is cooperation in implementing respective tasks. The Polish parliament speaker, (Stanislau), in his capacity as leader of the delegation, has invited the Indonesian parliament speaker to visit Poland. The Polish parliamentary delegation arrived in Jakarta yesterday. Besides visiting Jakarta, the delegation will also tour West Java, Central Java, Yogyakarta Special Territory, and Bali. [Text] [BK111605 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesia 1200 GMT 11 Oct 83]

CRUDE OIL TO AUSTRALIA--Export of crude oil by Pertamina in Balikpapan, East Kalimantan, to Australia continued to increase in the last few years. During the period between 1979 and 1982, some \$694.2 million worth of foreign exchange has been secured from the sale of oil to Australia. During the first 6 months of 1983, crude oil export to Australia amounted to more than 1.5 million barrels worth \$50.33 million. [Excerpts] [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 2300 GMT 7 Sep 83 BK]

TRANSMIGRANTS IN SOUTH SUMATERA--The Ogan Komering Ilir District in South Sumatera, up to the final year of the current 5-year development plan, has given accomodation to some 20,000 families of transmigrants resettled in nine locations. Four out of the nine resettlement areas have been developed. The transmigrants were engaged in the agriculture and plantation sectors as well as planting fruit trees. The products were being marketed to the surrounding areas, especially Palembang, besides for self consumption. [Excerpts] [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 2300 GMT 7 Sep 83 BK]

TRANSMIGRANTS IN BENKULU--The governor of Bengkulu Province has said that so far his province has given accommodation to some 16,000 families of transmigrants hailing from West Java, Bali, Central Java and Jakarta Metropolitan. He said that during the forthcoming fourth 5-year Development Plan his province will accommodate another 22,000 families of transmigrants hailing from various districts on Java Island. [Excerpts] [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 8 Sep 83 BK]

CONCERN OVER RELIGIOUS SECT--Jakarta, Thurs.--Concern is spreading in a sub-district of Ciamis Residency in west Java over the emergence of a new religious sect propagated by a high school student, the daily PIKIRAN RAKYAT of Bandung reported yesterday. Community leaders of the Padaherang sub-district said that the Amanah Suci (Holy Message) sect was established by an 18-year-old student identified only as Adr. The sect, said to run counter to Islam, has attracted youths who are ignorant about Islamic holy scriptures. Islam forbids adultery but the Amanah Suci allows it on the basis of mutual attraction, the paper said. The sect members are also allowed to eat pork and dog's meat provided they are slaughtered according to Islamic rituals. According to the paper, the sect followers were not required to pray five times a day, which is mandatory for Muslims, or fast during the fasting month of Ramadhan. Community leaders had approached authorities to take steps against the new sect which they saw as a continuation of previously banned religious movements, the paper said.--AFP. [Text] [Penang THE STAR in English 16 Sep 83 p 12]

CSO: 4200/66

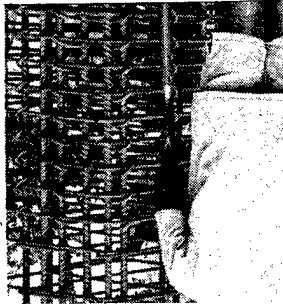
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

WEAPONS

Honiara

[Text]

*Left: Pouring concrete at
Pier No. 2, Ngaliambu
bridge, June 1983.*



CSO: 4200/57

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BRIEFS

IRIAN JAYA LEADER VISIT REPORTED--A leader of the Irian Jayan Independence movement, who's been living in exile in Europe for many years, has arrived in Papua New Guinea. He is Mr. Nicolas Jouwe (Pron: Yow-way), the vice president and foreign minister of the self-proclaimed de facto government of West Papua. Mr. Jouwe is staying with a prominent member of the Irian Jayan community in Port Moresby. He left Irian Jaya in the 1960's, after the Indonesian takeover and went to Holland, where he headed the political wing of the rebel movement. Radio Australia's Port Moresby correspondent, Sean Dorney, said the purpose of Mr. Jouwe's trip to Papua New Guinea is not clear. [Text] [Honiara SOLOMON STAR in English 2 Sep 83 p 8]

CSO: 4200/57

EDITORIAL VIEWS REVISION OF ELECTIONS CODE

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 27 Sep 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Open Mind"]

[Text]

DEPUTY Prime Minister Jose A. Roño, secretary-general of the KBL, called attention to the fact that the Batasan committee on revision of laws, codes, and constitutional amendments has not yet reported out the proposed election code. The committee must be marking time on the proposal in order to give the opposition enough opportunity to submit its proposals. Minister Roño said his party had an open mind on the proposed code.

Everybody concedes the importance of the elections in May. They will be held for the purpose of electing members to the regular, as distinguished from the present interim, Batasang Pambansa. Knowledgeable observers believe that the elections will be crucial to the future of democracy. Hence, it is important that the code, which will govern the conduct of the elec-

tions, be freed from the defects which no less than the Commission on Elections has noted of the present one. It is important that the opposition contribute to the formulation of a satisfactory set of election laws.

Presumably, the Batasan committee is thoroughly studying the provisions not necessarily because of the difficulty per se of preparing a new code but because it is aware that its conclusions might suffer from the biases of partisanship.

The committee must have been aware of the high state of development of the knowledge pertaining to elections and its awareness of the fact compels it to make room for suggestions coming from sources outside the committee.

If it is feared that the elections will be faulty, the fear should not be based on

a faulty election code.
There is time and opportunity to formulate a code that if, implemented faithfully, will ensure fair and honest elections.

CSO: 4200/59

BATASANG RESOLUTION URGES RECONCILIATION COUNCIL

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 27 Sep 83 pp 1, 6

[Text] A resolution was filed with the Batasang Pambansa yesterday asking President Marcos to constitute immediately a national reconciliation council to ease the prevailing tension and prevent disunity among the people.

The council is supposed to include representatives of government, the Catholic Church, and other religious organizations, professionals, labor and youth groups, members of the academe, and legitimate political oppositionists.

Introduced by Assemblymen Hilario Davide Jr., Filemon Fernandez (Pusyon Bisaya, Central Visayas), and Francisco Tatad (NP, Bicol Region), the resolution raised the need for such a council.

The authors said unless reconciliation is accomplished, the nation will be divided and the people will inherit nothing but chaos, pain, and sorrow.

They noted that Jaime Cardinal Sin himself had long advocated the creation of

such a council to arrest the growing dissatisfaction and indifference among various segments of the community.

As proposed, the council will be assigned the task of discussing objectively the problems facing the country and people, particularly in the areas of justice, human rights, economic and social freedom, as well as adopt measures to restore the people's faith in government.

The council will recommend measures that will remove oppression and injustice, as well as reconstruct a society that would give full meaning to national reconciliation.

Co-authors of the resolution are Assemblyman Julian Yballe, Dominador Pernes, and Minority Floorleader Mariano Logarta, all of Pusyon Bisaya.

Some majority members interviewed on the floor said they favor the creation of the council.

Meanwhile, Tatad rose on a question of

privilege and said that there was no need for the President to reimpose martial law.

He said the legal infrastructure that was created after the lifting of martial law in 1981 still remains.

Tatad was interpellated by Assemblyman Vicente Millora (KBL, Ilocos Region).

CSO: 4200/59

PHILIPPINES

COLUMNIST ON MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB PRESS CRITICISM

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 28 Sep 83 p 4

[Article in the "As We See It" column by Federico Pascual, Jr: "We Walked Into a Trap"]

[Text] The Makati Business Club meeting yesterday on the Philippine press was distressing, to say the least, to many members of the local media. We had accepted in good faith the invitation to what we were led to believe was to be a multi-sectoral dialogue which would attempt to find solutions to the crisis gripping the media.

The two-hour grilling of the local press--with the foreign press in attendance--must have been a relishing dessert for many of the businessmen who found something different for luncheon entertainment.

We press boys think we have wizened up to the ways of the world, but we grant now that we lost that one--somebody put one over us. We did not know we were walking into a trap when we went to dialogue with those businessmen.

One distressing thing was that the bulk of that Intercon crowd yesterday was sadly uninformed of the internal intricacies of putting out a newspaper in those times. It was our fault, since we never bothered to inform them all these years we have been interacting with them.

It was, therefore, not strange that when BULLETIN publisher Hans Menzi tried explaining to the overflow crowd the situation under which the media have been operating, his words fell (as he himself predicted) on deaf ears.

Poor Pat Gonzales, his editor, was slandered and roundly booed when he followed up and tried giving his observations as a working journalist. The rah-rah boys in one corner were in high spirit.

The inquisition got to a point where a former woman columnist stood to confront General Menzi over her articles not being used--which some of us felt was something between her and her publisher to thresh out outside.

There was really nothing said in that meeting which had not been said before. We all know the situation. In fact long before the Makati Business Club held that so-called dialogue, working newspapermen themselves have been discussing their predicament and have come up with some concrete plan of action.

When we went to the Makati Business Club meeting, we thought we were going to move now to the next stage--which is action. We have been talking too much and too long. The talking has, in fact, even served to defuse the situation because the airing has let off some steam.

There were some notable figures who contributed positively to the dialogue. Mr. Jaime Ongpin was helpful if only because he was straightforward and clear in his remarks (we need more of this kind of straight talk). Then there was Mr. Vicente Jayme who went beyond the level of mere talk and mentioned possible course of action. He hinted at the judicious use by businessmen of advertising support for media worth helping, the organization of newspapermen, and a return to the code of ethics to which journalists are bound.

The Philippine press still has a long road to travel. Along the way, we need the support--and understanding--of all sectors, including the business community. Let us approach future dialogue in good faith.

CSO: 4200/60

FRENCH SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY ACQUIRED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 27 Sep 83 p 24

[Text]

The Natural Resources Management Center (NRMC), an attached agency of the Ministry of Natural Resources, is being eyed as the country's principal distributor of products of the SPOT system, the latest in satellite remote sensing technology.

The SPOT system, conceived and designed by the Centre National d' Etudes Spatiales (CNES) of France, is being built by a French

firm, SPOT Corp. in association with Belgian and Swedish partners. The system consists of an earth observation satellite and earth stations for data reception.

Scientists consider the SPOT system, scheduled to be operational next year, as a welcome complement to the Landsat system developed by the National Oceanographic and Atmospher-

ic Association of the United States.

At present, the NRMC subscribes to the Landsat system for gathering information on the status of the country's natural resources and environment.

The SPOT instrument package provides for the so called off-nadir viewing, which enables the instrument to "look" to one side or the other of the satel-

lite's ground track, thus allowing for a three-dimensional view of the area, including height, slope, and elevation.

The satellite also has increased frequency of coverage, ranging from one to several days, in contrast to Landsat's frequency of 18 days, thus allowing for the monitoring of localized phenomena evolving on a relatively short time.

CSO: 4200/59

COLUMNIST ON LACK OF ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT FOR MARCOS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 28 Sep 83 p 6

[Article by Jesus Bigornia: "Where Have All the President's Men Gone?"]

[Excerpt]

RETIRED *politi-*
cos inquire face-
tiously, if not un-
mixed with sym-
pathy; "Where have
all the President's
men gone?" That
President Marcos
has, since emerg-
ence from seclusion,
single-handedly conducted the de-
fense of his regime against in-
snuations here and abroad of com-
plicity in the assassination of
opposition leader Benigno Aquino,
Jr. last month is gaining notice in
ever broadening circles. It is
pointed out that not a single civil
official of any consequence —
apart from the First Lady — has
taken to stage or television to
dispel disquieting reports on the
airport incident.

* * *

That Gen. Fabian C. Ver,
Armed Forces chief of staff, and
Maj. Gen. Prospero Olivas, Metro-
politan Command (Metrocom)
chief, bore the brunt of the de-
fense burden is understandable.
The returning Aquino was in the
custody of the military when fel-
led by an assassin's bullet at the
Manila International Airport
(MIA). But the chief civilian aides
of the President have, according
to many observers, have main-
tained a low profile on the Aquino
affair as if in fear that its fall-out

would afflict their political fu-
ture. As if they could escape infec-
tion, if there be any.

* * *

When it is considered that even
the more dispassionate officials of
the Department of State of the
United States are convinced the
President had no hand in the ex-
ecution, it would seem that his
one-man stand is uncalled for. If he
and his administration are be-
leaguered as they are so pictured
in world opinion, it seems that it is
the duty of every responsible offi-
cial of the regime to rally around
the leader, not with mere profes-
sions of loyalty, but with facts
pertinent to the incident they may
have gathered on their own time
and initiative. Now is the time for
the President's men to stand and
be counted.

MOVE TO REDUCE IMF LOANS STIRS CONCERN

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 27 Sep 83 p 8

[Text]

A move initiated by the United States within the International Monetary Fund (IMF) calling for a reduction by half in future IMF lendings to member countries could jeopardize efforts by the Philippines at this time to secure a new credit package from the fund to meet balance-of-payments requirements for the next two years.

At the same time, failure by the US Congress to approve on time the US contribution of \$8.5 billion to the increase in IMF resources could render the increase in IMF quotas approved last February ineffective at a time when more and more developing countries are needing additional BOP fundings.

Until now, the bill appropriating the US contribution to the expanded funding of the IMF is still mired in the House of Representatives despite repeated assurance from the Reagan administration that the measure will finally pass Congress.

Since the US government holds the biggest

voting power in the IMF, the fund could not make any lending from the increased quotas until the US contribution is finalized.

The Philippine government, through a top-level team headed by Prime Minister Virata which is now in Washington D.C., intended to secure a new credit package from the IMF of at least SDR 1.5 billion (\$1.65 billion) to meet expected BOP shortfalls of about the same amount for 1984 and 1985.

But this was on the basis that the increased quotas of the IMF could get implemented by the latter part of this year.

Under the IMF expanded quotas, Philippine access to IMF resources was increased from about SDR 1.36 billion (\$1.49 billion) to about SDR 2.26 billion (\$2.49 billion).

After the Philippine government ratified last month the instruments covering the increase in IMF resources, the government had hoped it could borrow new

funds under the expanded quotas.

That was why the Virata team has intended to secure about \$1.5 billion from the \$2.49 billion maximum quota the Philippine has under the expanded system to "meet financing needs for possible future balance of payments deficits, export shortfalls and contributions to buffer stocks for the next two years."

If the US move to have the IMF cut its future lendings by half succeeds, the amount the Philippine could secure from the fund would be reduced accordingly.

Banking sources noted that a reduced amount of IMF funds which the government can secure for the next two years could also affect the flow of credit from foreign banks to the Philippines during the same period.

They said that a decreased foreign credit inflow to the Philippines at a time when exports were not high enough could only complicate the BOP situation further.

CSO: 4200/59

FOREIGN BANK INTEREST IN INTERBANK REPORTED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 27 Sep 83 pp 8, 9

[Article by Rosario A. Liquicia]

[Text] A FOREIGN bank is interested in taking a 40-percent stake in the International Corporate Bank (Interbank), Trade and Industry Minister Roberto V. Ongpin disclosed yesterday.

The value of the equity interest in Interbank the foreign bank intends to acquire is estimated at roughly P200 million.

Interbank was until recently controlled by the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) with its holdings equivalent to 78 percent of the bank's outstanding equity. It will, soon, be fully owned, however, by the National Development Co. (NDC).

The takeover by NDC, a state-owned firm headed by Ongpin, of Interbank is still being worked out.

The foreign bank, Ongpin said, wants to get into Interbank even before its takeover by NDC.

Ongpin declined to identify the buying bank, but knowledgeable sources said that this could be the Bank of Hawaii, which has been on the lookout for partner in the local banking scene.

He explained that "it was actually the Central Bank which asked NDC to take over Interbank so the planned entry of the foreign bank could be effected."

THE entry of this major international bank into Interbank was not possible when the latter was still under the control of the DBP "because the balance sheet of Interbank had to be cleaned up," Ongpin pointed out.

"As you know, Interbank is intertwined with the rest of the Herdis companies," Ongpin added, "and the only way you can clean it up is by putting it back as part of the overall Herdis group which is under NDC."

NDC already has a 22-percent stake in Interbank.

To apparently avoid criticisms from the private sector, Ongpin pointed out that NDC's acquisition of the commercial bank "should not be interpreted as another case of government encroachment into private business considering that the local bank was taken over from another government institution (DBP) and not from a private group."

Besides, Ongpin stressed, it was not possible for any local private group to take over Interbank because of the huge liabilities of the bank.

He declined to say the amount of Interbank's liabilities.

TWO groups have actually offered to buy Interbank from DBP.

These were the affiliates First Philippine Holdings, Inc. (First Holdings), and management holding enterprise, and Philippine Commercial International Bank (PCIBank), a large commercial bank.

Negotiations between the DBP and the two competing groups were reportedly ongoing when the government announced that Interbank would instead be sold to NDC.

Interbank's transfer to NDC's hands, however, will not involve any cash outlay because the payments will be in the form of long-term NDC bonds.

It may be recalled that early last year, the Herdis Group transferred to the NDC its shares of stocks in 12

major companies. The arrangement called for NDC's assumption of Herdis companies' obligations amounting to some P1.3 billion.

NDC took over the major Herdis firms such as Semirara Coal Corp., Asia Industries except Interbank which was then tossed to the DBP although Herdis' 22-percent stake in the bank remained with NDC.

CSO: 4200/60

CHURCH SCHOOLS NOT TO TAKE PARTISAN POSITIONS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 27 Sep 83 pp 1, 6

[Article by Rod L. Villa, Jr.]

[Text]

The Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) declared yesterday that its more than 3,000 member-schools nationwide "do not and will not take partisan positions" in the current national crisis.

Bro. Rolando R. Dizon, CEAP president, said that as a policy, religious schools "will not suspend classes" but that discretion may be exercised to avoid risks to students in the event of disorder.

Education Minister Onofre D. Corpuz, Dizon, and their immediate assistants, met behind closed doors in Quezon City for what was described as a "dialogue to return peace and tranquility in the academe."

Veteran ministry officials said it was the first time top education leaders met with the CEAP.

Education Deputy Minister Hermenegildo C. Dumlao and Director Gregorio C. Evangelista of the Bureau of Youth

Affairs and Foreign Students attended the dialogue.

Dizon was joined by Sr. Luz, Emmanuel Soriano, CEAP secretary; Dr. Lourdes R. Quisumbing, vice president; Fr. Ramon C. Salinas, OP, and Ms. Jenny Go, directors.

The conference was held after President Marcos denounced last Sunday Catholic educators engaged in demagoguery "to mesmerize and mislead our children" and to sow hatred toward the government and duly constituted authority.

Corpuz told the educators that the basic mission of the MECS and of every school is "to organize classes for the purpose of education, and thereafter, to keep the classes going."

"Unless this mission is accepted and discharged, there is no reason for the schools to exist," Corpuz said.

Dizon and his group adopted the MECS position and said they would take all necessary steps to keep normalcy in the classrooms.

Corpuz belied reports that MECS was the source of reports that Catholic schools have taken a position hostile to government.

He said the reports emanated from sources outside of the ministry, stressing MECS "is not endowed with and does not have police or intelligence functions."

Dizon said Catholic teachers have been advised against engaging in political issues and ventilating anti-government sentiments.

But he added that teachers "still are free to express themselves as part of academic freedom" and that the current noonday and other special prayers for peace are part of the church's drive to normalize the tense situation.

HIGH MILITARY OFFICER MAY BE LINKED IN SMUGGLING

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 28 Sep 83 pp 1, 3

[Article by Santos Patinio]

[Text] CUSTOMS and Constabulary authorities began looking yesterday into reports that a ranking military officer is behind the attempted smuggling into the country of P50-million worth of textile materials intercepted in Atimonan, Quezon, Sunday.

The name of the military officer cropped up with the arrest of 15 soldiers, a civilian agent and a retired Quezon City policeman who were allegedly escorting the illegal shipment from Atimonan to Manila.

All the suspects are now in the custody of the Constabulary Regional Unified Command IV, headed by Brig. Gen. Andres Ramos.

Ramos had also ordered the impounding of 11 ten-wheeler trucks, which were carrying the 212 bales of assorted fabrics, and 10 Mercedes Benz cars escorting the shipment.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Customs issued a warrant of seizure against the textile materials.

Commissioner Ramon J. Farolan said the trucks, carrying the textiles, and cars, were impounded at Camp Nakar in Lucena City. He said that under the Customs and Tariff Code, any vehicle used in smuggling will be confiscated in favor of the government.

Farolan said the vessels, *M. V. Wil-*

ty Anne, which carried the shipment from Hongkong, will be brought to Manila together with the impounded trucks and cars. Ramos, has assigned his men to escort the ship and other vehicles from Quezon to Manila.

* * *

ACCORDING to a Constabulary report, 15 troopers, a retired policeman and a civilian agent were arrested by the RUC IV in connection with the smuggling attempt. Also, high-powered guns and sidearms were seized from the suspects who were said to be escorting the shipment.

They were identified as M/Sgt. Antonio Maciano, T/Sgts. Henry Unito, Fred Corpuz, Wilfredo Acop, Armand Lucido, Sgt. Angelo Campolino, CIC Reynaldo Pascual, detailed at the Ministry of National Defense; M/Sgt. Jose Vienes, T/Sgt. Efrén Cera, S/Sgt. Sabianono Haspela of the Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISG); T/Sgt. Leonardo Aquino, Sgt. Angelo Tunesa and Pat. Romeo Oranga of the 224th PC Company in Laguna; M/Sgt. Felix Ilim, formerly of the Constabulary Highway Patrol Group; civilian agent Ruben Villanueva; and P/Sgt. Restituto Vinas, a retired Quezon City policeman.

THE DEFENSE ministry confirmed that eight officers are actually on detail with the ministry, saying they are now conducting an investigation on the matter.

The suspects were arrested by a Constabulary team headed by Col. Antonio Sierra while allegedly escorting the shipment. Seized from them were 14 M-16 armalite rifles, one AK-47 rifle, ten .45 caliber pistols, two 357 revolvers; one .22 caliber pistol and a .380 pistol. They are under detention at Camp Nakar on orders of General Ramos.

The textile fabrics consisted of 212 bales of assorted colors and types, Farolan said. He said his men are now tracing the ownership of the shipment.

Customs sources said the smuggling could be another work of a syndicate expecting goods sales because of the coming Christmas season.

CSO: 4200/60

RISING FUEL COSTS SPARKS REVIVAL OF CARABAO

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 27 Sep 83 p 11

[Article by Linda Bolido]

[Text]

THE frantic search for alternative energy sources that the oil crisis prompted has brought new respectability to what Filipinos were beginning to take for granted — the carabao.

With the high cost of crude oil and other imported petroleum products making it expensive to operate farm machineries, the carabao presents itself as a practical and cheap substitute for mechanized agricultural equipment.

Another point in the carabao's favor is that it already exists and is available whereas it would take years before other unconventional energy sources can be developed. The growing demand for food made by a continuously rising population requires no letup in the Philippines' food production effort. The country just cannot afford to slow down its food production activities while waiting for another opportunity to pursue farm mechanization.

But the carabao does not mean an easy solution.

Probably because of its decreasing importance to farmers, a number of problems have cropped up which make the carabao as it exists at present unable to meet fully the demands of small-scale farm production.

Foremost of these problems is the fact that there now exists a shortage of work carabaos. The ones that are available are of poor genetic quality and are also subjected to improper breeding practices.

A survey jointly conducted by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (Baecon) in 1980 showed that the country's carabao population was only 2.9 million. The agencies realized that between 1976, when the first survey was conducted, and 1980, the carabao population hardly increased.

A shortage of feeder stock resulting in a small carabao breeding base was also noted. Preliminary studies conducted in the early 1970's showed a tremendous waste of breeder stock through slaughter.

A background document issued by BAI reported:

"In a survey undertaken in the Greater Manila slaughterhouses, it was found that 23 percent of carabao and 25 percent of pregnant cattle were being slaughtered."

It added that before the 1980 amendment of Executive Order No. 234 issued May 18, 1970, which banned the slaughter of carabaos and buffaloes, no less than 500 carabaos were slaughtered every day.

The farmer who wants to have a work carabao is faced with another

serious problem. Owning a carabao means a substantial investment with one animal costing an average of P3,500 under present market rates.

There is also the not-so-easy task of taking care of the carabao, seeing to it that it gets sufficient and nutritious feed.

In its "Kalabaw ng Barangay" program, the Ministry of Agriculture (through the BAI) and the Central Bank, took note of these problems and came up with a package consisting of supervised credit, improved technology, breeding management and marketing.

The program aims primarily "to conserve, produce, increase and improve the genetic quality of the local (carabao) stock as a means to improve food and agricultural production."

As a supervised credit scheme, farmers wishing to own carabaos for draft or breeding under the "Kalabaw ng Barangay" program may apply for loans with accredited rural banks.

Director Salvador H. Escudero III of the BAI said, "The loans are payable in three years at 10 percent interest, plus 2 percent bank charges. An individual farmer may borrow as much as is needed to finance two heads of carabao."

Implementing rules issued by the Central Bank specify that the loan is extended to provide the borrower a work animal to maximize his farm's productivity. The animal itself is not expected to be a direct source of repayment for the loan.

A borrower has to select from at least four project combinations — draft carabao with rice farming, with corn farming, with vegetable farming, or with combinations of the three others and/or including permanent crops.

The BAI has identified pilot areas and hopes to supply at least 25 percent of farm households in those

places with work carabaos during the program's first year (about 10,000 heads). Priority locations are rice and corn areas where the animals are needed for tillage, transport and milk production.

The number of work carabaos dispersed through the program is expected to increase by tens of thousands every year, reaching a maximum of 50,000 by 1987. By that time, a total of 150,000 work carabaos will have been distributed.

In addition to work carabaos, breeder heifer/cows are also scheduled for distribution. The initial figure is 5,000. This will peak at 40,000 in 1987 for a total of 105,000 in five years.

The program's breeder bull component involves the initial use of 200 carabaos to be increased to 1,000 by 1987 for a total of 3,000 in five years.

The borrower's share in the financing scheme would consist of farm implements as well as expenses incurred in providing adequate shelter and food to the animal.

In addition to the financial assistance that a participant gets, he will also be the recipient of technology transfer. This will include instructions on how to take care and properly feed the carabao. The accessibility of expert assistance is among the primary considerations in the choice of participating areas.

While the program aims primarily to provide farmers with substitute farm power, other benefits are expected to be derived from it.

Efforts to increase the carabao population through the program's breeding component may result in the animal becoming another major source of protein in the country.

The BAI notes, "Underlying the shortage in carabeef supply is the disproportionately low ratio of the carabao population to the human population, which stands at one carabao to 17 humans. This explains why

the country is only 70 percent self-sufficient in local beef production."

An increase in the number of carabaos as well as the improvement of genetic quality can also boost the country's dairy production.

Given these possibilities, the farmer participating in the "Kalabaw ng Barangay" program will not only find himself with a reliable work animal to increase his farm's productivity. He may also be able to increase his income through meat and dairy production. — *DEPTHnews*

SUBVERSIVE LINKS SUSPECTED IN AUTO THEFT UPSURGE

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 25 Sep 83 pp 1, 6

[Excerpts] **PRESIDENT MARCOS** directed yesterday law enforcement agents to look into the possibility that subversive elements are behind the rash of carnaping incidents in Metro Manila.

Expressing concern over the upsurge of carnaping cases recently, the President said the war against carnapers will be intensified.

According to the President, elements of the elite Presidential Security Command will be fielded to help law enforcers to go after the carnapers.

* * *

THREE MORE cars and a motorcycle, meanwhile, were stolen while parked in different parts of Metro Manila, police records showed yesterday.

said, point to a possible connection between carnaping syndicates and the subversives, who may be financing their operations.

Steps should be taken to head off the tieup between these elements who appear to have organized themselves into a well-financed and protected force.

The President warned that the government will deal with these elements with all the force at its command. "We are going to be firm on this. Any resistance will be met with equal resistance," he said.

Agencies involved in the war against carnaping are the Bureau of Land Transportation and the Constabulary Highway Patrol Group.

NEWSPAPER reports show that more than 50 cars have been stolen since July, most of them taken from their owners at gunpoint.

These stolen cars are reportedly sold to unsuspecting buyers at "bargain prices" after being registered with the BLT with fake documents, through fixers.

Some have been registered with fake sheriff's certificates, invoices and deeds of sale, including tampered license plates.

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

ROLE OF CARDINAL SIN--Who leads the opposition? There are many leaders, each claiming to be "the" leader who all other opposition leaders must be. It must be obvious by now that the radicals join the peaceful demonstrations but do not believe what the speakers say. They do as they please. Does Cardinal Sin speak for all Christians? Does he control the political thoughts of all Catholics? It is time to check on the credentials of people who have annointed themselves as leaders of the opposition. [Excerpt] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 27 Sep 83 p 4]

CSO: 4200/60

TALKS ON PRC-SOLOMON ISLAND DIPLOMATIC TIES FAIL

Honiara SOLOMON STAR in English 26 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

The Ambassador of the Peoples Republic of China (mainland China) has stated frankly that his country would not establish diplomatic relations with Solomon Islands unless the Government reduce the office of the Taiwanese Consular-General in Honiara to a Commercial Office.

The Chinese ambassador, Mr. Hu Hong Fan, based in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea was invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last week for talks on diplomatic ties.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Denis Lulei said Mr. Hu and Government officials had had two days of serious discussions on Tuesday and Wednesday last week.

"We have come to a deadlock", Mr. Lulei said. "Despite our serious discussions, Mr. Hu repeatedly told us frankly not to estab-

lish diplomatic relations with his country", Mr. Lulei said.

In the Government Programme of Action Solomon Islands is to establish diplomatic relations with the Peoples Republic of China between 1981-84.

Mr. Lulei said "we are trying to accommodate both countries".

But Mr. Hu said, "China will not establish diplomatic relations with Solomon Islands unless Solomon Islands breaks off diplomatic ties with Taiwan or reduce the Taiwanese Consular General's Office to a commercial office.

"We regard Taiwan as part of mainland China," Mr. Hu said.

He said, "Solomon Islands may establish 'people to people relations' with Taiwan but not official diplomatic ties".

The Taiwanese Consular General, Mr. Suen Hsi-Tzing said he would not lower his office to a commercial office.

Solomon Islands established diplomatic relations with Taiwan on consular level early this year.

THAILAND

MEMBERSHIP, DUTIES OF DEFENSE COUNCIL NOTED

Bangkok MATICHON In Thai 2 Sep 83 p 3

[Article: "The Defense Council, an RTA Paper Council"]

[Text] "I don't know who is a member of the Defense Council."

That's unbelievable but we still have to accept it as the truth since the person who said this was Major General Phichit Kunlawanit, the commander of the 1st Infantry Division.

And does anyone outside the military know what the Defense Council is, what its role and duties concerning the country's military are or how Lieutenant Colonel Sanan Khachonprasat, the chairman of the House Military Subcommittee, will increase the power of the Defense Council?

Will its power be increased so that it becomes a military council within a democratic system or will it take on non-democratic characteristics for greater security?

But first of all, what is the Defense Council?

A Military Council of High-Ranking Officers

The present Defence Council operates in accord with the 1960 Act on Regulations for Ministry of Defense Officials and the 1960 Ministry of Defense Regulation on the Defense Council, which was promulgated on 21 July 1960 by General Thanom Kittikhachon, the minister of defense at that time.

The members of the Defense Council include: (1) the minister of defense, (2) the deputy minister of defense, (3) the undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, (4) the deputy undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, (5) the supreme commander, (6) the deputy supreme commander, (7) the assistant supreme commander, (8) the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, (9) the deputy chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, (10) the RTA CINC, (11) the deputy RTA CINC, (12) the assistant RTA CINC, (13) the chief of staff of the army, (14) the RTN CINC, (15) the deputy RTN CINC, (16) the assistant RTN CINC, (17) the chief of staff of the navy, (18) the

RTAF CINC, (19) the deputy RTAF CINC, (20) the assistant RTAF CINC, and (21) the chief of staff of the air force.

Besides this, the regulation stipulates that the "minister of defense will appoint up to three officers of the rank of general who have held a position or excelled in military service."

The head of the Secretarial Department serves as the secretary of the Defense Council.

Within the Defense Council, the minister of defense serves as the president of the council.

The head of the Secretarial Department serves as the secretary of the Defense Council. The deputy head of the Secretarial Department is the deputy secretary of the council.

The secretary of the Defense Council makes the arrangements for each Defense Council meeting. The deputy secretary of the Defense Council assists him.

The duties of the secretary of the Defense Council are as follows:

1. Schedule Defense Council meetings as ordered by the council president.
2. Make known the agenda and documents concerning the Defense Council meeting at the meeting or inform the members of the Defense Council and confirm Defense Council resolutions.
3. Prepare reports on Defense Council meetings.
4. Collect and store Defense Council documents. These documents will be made public only when necessary.
5. Maintain order at Defense Council meetings and in the area where the meeting is being held.
6. Carry out the general business of the Defense Council and any other tasks entrusted to him by the president of the Defense Council.

Defense Council Meetings and Topics of Meetings

Defense Council meetings are held in accord with the orders of the council president or whenever at least three members request a meeting and the president agrees.

At each Defense Council meeting, to form a quorum, at least 50 percent of the members must be present, and at least one member from each of the service branches must be present.

Normally, the president of the Defense Council chairs the meeting. If the president cannot attend the meeting, the vice president of the Defense Council will chair the meeting instead. However, if neither the president nor the vice president can attend the meeting, the meeting must be cancelled.

The topics discussed at the Defense Council meetings include:

1. General military policies.
2. Policies on mobilizing manpower to help the military.
3. Policies on administration and command within the Ministry of Defense.
4. The military budget and the allotment of the budget of the Ministry of Defense.
5. Laws concerning the military.
6. Topics brought up by the minister of defense.

Concerning matters that have caused problems at Defense Council meetings, a majority vote is required to pass a Defense Council resolution. If the votes are equal, the chairman of the meeting will cast the deciding vote.

A Defense Council resolution will be considered to be a policy and desire of the Ministry of Defense. Government officials must then use this as a basis for bureaucratic administration.

Members of the Defense Council

1. Minister of defense: General Prem Tinsulanon, president.
2. Deputy minister of defense: Air Chief Marshal Phanieng Kantarat, vice president.
3. Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense: General Thuanthong Suwannathat, member.
4. Deputy undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense: General Chamnan Nilawiset, Admiral Suraphon Saengchot and Air Chief Marshal Sansoenwanit.
5. Supreme commander: General Saiyut Koetphon.
6. Deputy supreme commander: the commanders-in-chief of the three services.
7. Assistant supreme commander: abolished.
8. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: General Rien Ditsathabanchaong.

9. Deputy chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: Admiral Somchit Thammarakkhith, Air Chief Marshal Wira Thaikla and General Bunrit Thantharanon.
10. RTA CINC: General Athit Kamlangek.
11. Deputy RTA CINC: General Sup Adsaranukhro.
12. Assistant RTA CINC: General Thienchai Sirisamphan and General Pathom Soemsin.
13. Army chief of staff: General Pamot Thawonchan.
14. RTN CINC: Admiral Sombun Chuaphibun.
15. Deputy RTN CINC: Admiral Praphat Chantharawirat.
16. Assistant RTN CINC: Admiral Sophon Suyansetthakon.
17. Navy chief of staff: Admiral Samak Saiwong.
18. RTAF CINC: Air Chief Marshal Praphan Thupatemi.
19. Deputy RTAF CINC: Air Chief Marshal Banthoet Chotichanaphiban.
20. Assistant RTAF CINC: Air Chief Marshal Arun Phromthep and Air Chief Marshal Chakon thattanon.
21. Air Force chief of staff: Air Chief Marshal Somphon Burutratanaphan.
22. Two retired generals: Lieutenant General Saming Tailangkha and Lieutenant General Pradit Sunthrachun.
23. Secretary of the Defense Council: Lieutenant General Rawi Mukdaprakon.
24. Deputy secretary of the Defense Council: Major General Prachuap Bunyakuakun.

11943

CSO: 4207/166

THAILAND

ACTIVIST ARRESTED, BELATEDLY CHARGED WITH LESE MAJESTE

Lengthy Interrogation

Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai 14 Jul 83 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Police Forbid Visits, Deny Bail to Member of the Democracy Association; This Is Said to Be A Major Case"]

[Text] The police are still forbidding visits and denying bail to the coordinator of the Democracy Association. Ophat and Suwan have interrogated him personally. The Democracy Association is tired of this. It was revealed that several people were arrested. The charge was having illegal publications in their possession.

At 1700 hours on 13 July, fellow members of the "Dok Rak" and Democracy Association [went to visit a member] who was arrested and who had been under interrogation for 5 days at the Nang Loeng 2 Metropolitan Police Station. But police officials refused to allow them to visit him.

Police Lieutenant Colonel Urai Siurai, the deputy superintendent of Metropolitan Police Precinct 2, told reporters that on Tuesday evening he received an order from a superior to transfer Mr Saman to the jail and conduct the interrogation at the Nang Loeng station in order to carry out things properly. An order prohibiting people from visiting the suspect and denying bail was issued. Also, he is being kept separate from other prisoners.

The deputy superientendent also said that on Thursday, 14 July, Mr Saman will be taken to the criminal court jail.

As for the interrogation conducted on the 13th, the interrogation began in the morning in the office of Police Lieutenant Colonel Napha Phayakkhaphan, another deputy superintendent.

Besides this, a news report said that Police Major General Ophat Rattanasin, the commander of the Special Branch Division, and Police Lieutenant General Suwan Rattanachun, the deputy director-general of the Police Department for special affairs, went to question the suspect personally.

A relative who went and asked permission to see Mr Saman told reporters that Police Lieutenant Colonel Urai had asked him not to discuss the arrest of Mr Saman with reporters. He said that Mr Saman is a well-known person and that the newspapers already know the story. He has followed the matter in the press.

However, Police Lieutenant Colonel Urai told reporters and those who have asked to see [Mr Saman] that this is a matter for high-ranking officers. He is not at liberty to provide any information concerning the arrest and investigation.

Some Associates of Mr Saman who asked permission to visit him have observed that each time that Mr Saman has been interrogated, the interrogations have lasted from early in the morning until 2200 hours. He has been interrogated for 5 days now but officials still refuse to give out any information about this.

Furthermore, concerning the arrest of Mr Saman, one news report said that he was arrested after police officials searched his house and found printed documents that the police felt were illegal and that could make him subject to the charge of having committed lese majeste. Before Mr Saman was arrested, the police had searched the Charoenwit printery in Bang Lam Phu since there were grounds for suspecting that such documents and printed materials were being printed here. One official of this printery was arrested. Besides this, some former Thammasat students who worked for a news agency were arrested.

"These arrests are group arrests. The police have made their plans well. It is very strange that they refuse to allow lawyers or relatives to visit the suspect," stated the news report. And it said that at present, lawyers who love justice are considering what legal action to take to fight this.

Close Confinement Ordered

Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai 15 Jul 83 pp 1, 2

[Article: "Saman Interrogated Intensely On Charges of Committing Lese Majeste and Engaging In Communist Activities. Two Others Are Being Hunted]

[Text] Saman Khongsukphon has been charged with committing lese majeste and engaging in communist activities. The commander of the Special Branch Division is taking up the matter personally. He has been interrogated intensely and denied visitors and bail for 6 days now. It has been revealed that the head of the type setters and two of his workers have been under arrest for a month now and that [police] are looking for the owner of the Nang Su Pok Luang printery and a capitalist backer. The director-general of the Police Department has confirmed that [Mr Saman] is still under interrogation at the Nang Loeng Police Station. [words illegible] keeping an eye on "human rights" violations.

Mr Saman Khongsukphon, an important coordinator for the Democracy Association and the head of the Dok Rak group, which joined with the Democracy Association during the "crisis over the constitution," was arrested on Friday, 8 July. A high-level news source in the Police Department revealed that officials have charged him with committing lese majeste and engaging in communist activities. This resulted from the publication of the "yellow book," which was published and disseminated at the beginning of 1982.

The news source said that this is not a minor matter; it is a capital offense. And officials have much evidence. It is necessary to interrogate the suspect in top secrecy and so visits and bail have been denied.

However, the news source said that Mr Saman has denied all the charges.

The news source said that officials arrested Mr Saman at his home on Friday evening, 8 July, and informed him of the charges in his position as the owner of the manuscript of the "yellow book," which was sent to the Dok Ya news agency and was published by the Chroenwit Press, at 322/122 Wat Trithotsathep Lane.

Prior to this, police officials arrested Mr Sawai (surname unknown), the chief type setter, and Mr Phonthep (surname unknown), a worker there, about 1 month ago. Officials are looking for Mr Surawit Chaiphongsawali, the owner of this printery who fled, and the man who invested in publishing this book. Both men have fled.

Police Major General Samnao Withitwarakan, the commander of the Northern Investigation Bureau, talked with reporters at the Police Department. He told them that officials have been following this case for a long time. A joint committee was formed by the Northern Investigation Bureau and the Special Branch Division. As for other details, [he said that] he was not at liberty to divulge anything else at this time.

Police General Narong Mahanon, the director-general of the Police Department, was interviewed by reporters about this matter. He said that he had telephoned and talked with Police Major General Ophat Rattanasin, the commander of the Special Branch Division. But he said that he cannot divulge any details and that [people] must wait until the commander of the Special Branch Division issues a statement after the investigation has been completed.

The commander of the Special Branch Division informed the director-general of the Police Department that as of the afternoon of 14 July, Mr Saman was still under interrogatin at the Nang Loeng Police Station and that he has not been moved to another jail.

Concerning the arrest of Mr Saman, Mr Khothom Ariya, a friend who has worked with Mr Saman at the Democracy Association, told MATUPHUM that a suspect is entitled to have visitors and has the right to discuss things with a lawyer.

Mr Khothom pointed out that several of the basic rights of the suspect have been violated. For example, he has been held in solitary confinement for no appropriate reason. This definitely should not have happened.

However, Mr Khothom said that if the suspect is treated roughly or otherwise manhandled by officials, the suspect's friends will appeal to MPs and inform the mass media so that the case is handled in a just and straightforward manner. And this does not hold for just this case. Attention will also be given to other cases in which the person's human rights have been violated.

Others Arrested In Same Case

Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai 18 Jul 83 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Saman Jailed At Khlong Prem; Lawyers Are Angry That Police Are Guarding Him So Closely"]

[Text] Saman has been jailed at the Khlong Prem jail. Some have said that this is political persecution. Lawyers are angry about his being guarded so closely. The suspect has been charged with lese majeste only. The owner of the printery has denied any involvement in the "yellow book" matter.

Mr Somphon Chiraphat, the lawyer for Mr Saman Khongsukphon, who is suspected of having committed lese majeste and of having engaged in communist activities and who was an important coordinator for the Democracy Association of Thailand, talked with MATUPHUM about the progress made in this case. He said that he met with the suspect on 13 July in order to find a way to help him. Normally, a lawyer can meet with his client alone. But police officials would not allow that in this case. Both Police Lieutenant General Suwan Rattanachun, the deputy director-general of the Police Department for special affairs, and Police Lieutenant Colonel Urai, the deputy superintendent of Metropolitan Police Precinct 2, listened to the conversation between the lawyer and the defendant. Because of this, the defendant, Mr Saman, was not able to say very much.

However, Mr Somphon said that police officials have charged [Mr Saman] only with lese majeste; they have not charged him with engaging in communist activities.

Mr Somphon also said that police officials arrested Mr Saman with copies of the "yellow book," which officials claim contains material that is subject to the charge of lese majeste.

Mr Somphon revealed that Mr Saman said that this may be a matter of political persecution. But he could not say anything more since police officials kept a close watch on him while he talked with his lawyer, as was mentioned above. Mr Saman has been moved to the Bangkok Metropolitan Special Central Prison (the Khlong Prem prison) and so it should be easier for him to talk about various matters.

Furthermore, police officials have kept Mr Saman imprisoned at the criminal court jail since 14 July.

Mr Surawit Chaiphongsawali, the owner of the Chroenwit Press, talked with MATUPHUM on the evening of 17 July. He said that his printery had not played any part in publishing the "yellow book" and that he had not fled from the police as has been reported in the press. He stated that the police have not arrested any workers at his printery.

On 13 July, a high-level news source in the Police Department told MATUPHUM that police officials had arrested Mr Sawai (surname unknown), the head type setter, and Mr Phongthep (surname unknown) before they arrested Mr Saman on 8 July.

Police Major General Ophat Rattanasin, the commander of the Special Branch Division, talked with MATUPHUM on 15 July and said that Mr Saman had been arrested on charges of committing two capital offenses. He said that this was a high-level matter and that the Special Branch Division had very little to do with this. He told the reporters that they should go ask officials at the Northern Bangkok Metropolitan Police about this since they are the ones who are directly responsible.

However, the commander of the Special Branch Division did say that "you must be patient. This matter will take time; don't get so impatient. I cannot divulge anything about this case. After things are in order, you will be informed."

Police Lieutenant General Suwan Rattanachun, the deputy director-general of the Police Department for special affairs, told MATUPHUM that an official statement will be released on 18 July.

Right-Wing Influences Noted

Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai 18 Jul 83 p 2

[Article by Suriwong Uaphathiphan: "Saman Khongsukphon Secretely Arrested and Interrogated; the Right-Wing Wind Is Affecting 66/1980"]

[Text] One piece of news that has been dug up from the stillness is the news of the arrest of Mr Saman Khongsukphon, a pharmacologist at Mahidon University, on 8 July. However, this story was not printed in MATUPHUM until 13 July.

Concerning this arrest in the middle of the capital, it was 4-5 days before this was made public. Also, based on reports that have exposed various aspects of the case, besides the fact that he was arrested and interrogated secretely, there is the matter of him being denied visitors and bail. His lawyers have not been able to solve this problem.

Present criticisms thus focus on the matter of "human rights" in Thai society. The question is: What human rights do people still have, how many rights do they still have and how much will this spread? Or is this a new sign that there is to be a return to the old ways, or what is referred to as the return of the right-wing wind?

Behind the Arrest of Saman Khongsukphon

News sources in the Police Department and the Special Branch Division have revealed that this arrest is connected to the "yellow book," which is a document that enters the sphere of lese majeste. The news source in the Police Department said that this book was disseminated secretly around the beginning of 1982.

Besides this, some military news sources in security units have said that this is a major case. It is so important that orders have come down from higher echelons to prosecute this case speedily and to get at the bottom of the matter.

The same news source also said that, prior to this, high-level officials held a top secret meeting at 1400 hours on 3 November 1982 in the Green Room of the Thai Khu Fa Building at the Government House. Those attending the meeting included the prime minister, the minister of interior, high-ranking military officers and intelligence officials from almost every intelligence unit. The meeting lasted 2 hours. The things that had led to this were analyzed, and this provided guidelines so that the lower-level officials would take resolute and swift action.

It can be said that ever since that high-level meeting, intelligence officials have been very active and have investigated things on a grand scale. Then, last June, they searched a printery in Bang Lam Phu since they had reason to believe that they would find the "yellow book" referred to above.

But a news report stated that they failed to find any evidence. They arrested the head type setter. But the official did not have any evidence against the owner of the printery. The news report also said that the owner of the printery was not involved in this case in any way.

On 8 July, police officials arrested Mr Saman Khongsukphon.

Why Did Things Have to Be Done Secretely?

Concerning this case, Police Major General Samnao Withitsawakan, the commander of the Northern Bangkok Metropolitan Police, said that operations have been underway for a long time. A joint committee was established by the Northern Bangkok Metropolitan Police and the Special Branch Division. But the details cannot be divulged at this time.

This is the same as what was said by Police General Narong Mahanon, the director-general of the Police Department, who stated that he has contacted the Special Branch Division but that he cannot divulge anything at this time and that the investigation is still underway at the Nang Loeng Station.

Mr Kraisaak Chunhawan, a member of the Democracy Association of Thailand, said that on 12 July, seven officials from the association, who had learned of the arrest of Mr Samanan, an association coordinator, immediately went to visit him at the Chana Songkhram Police Station. However, they were told to go to the Nang Loeng Station. When they went to the Nang Loeng Station, they were told to go back to the Chana Songkhram Station. Also, when Mr Somphon Chitraphat, who is from the Attorneys' Office, volunteered to serve as Mr Saman's attorney, he was refused permission to visit him. Furthermore, the police refused to say what charges had been filed against Mr Saman. And even his relatives and friends were not allowed to visit him.

Some of Mr Saman's friends have said that based on what they observed when they went to ask permission to see him, each time Mr Saman was interrogated, he was interrogated intensely from morning to night. And officials have not issued any statement concerning the results of the interrogations.

Concerning this, Mr Khothom Ariya, an instructor in the Faculty of Engineering at Chulalongkorn University who is an associate of Mr Saman and who got to know him in the Democracy Association, said that, actually, a suspect should be permitted to have visitors and he has the right to consult with a lawyer. Furthermore, the fact that he has been held in solitary confinement for no legitimate reason is a serious violation of his human rights.

Why Saman Khongsukphon?

This was all done in great secrecy, and officials have said that they cannot divulge anything. Thus, there has been no clear or official statement concerning what progress has been made in the investigation or whether there is any conclusive evidence.

But a point worth noting at this time is that, concerning just Mr Saman, the person who was arrested, officials are still trying to do things very quietly. Thus, there are many complexities that must be discussed.

Concerning Mr Saman Khongsukphon, he is presently engaged in private business activities. He graduated from the Faculty of Pharmacy at Mahidol University. He is well known as the coordinator for the Democracy Association of Thailand, which is an open organization in society that is working actively on the democratic rights front. Besides this, Mr Saman is also a member of the Dok Rak group, which is an open group composed of a number of former students who have graduated.

The Dok Rak group once engaged in activities that made front-page headlines during the crisis over the constitution at the beginning of the year. This group carried on activities jointly with the Democracy Association.

Because of this political role, it is worth noting what has happened since this quiet arrest. And because of the position of Mr Saman, it is worth considering whether he was arrested for "political" reasons and whether this is an offensive against the activist organizations with which Mr Saman is affiliated. If it is in fact an offensive, this shows that this arrest is more a political problem than a matter of a criminal offense.

Because of all the factors in this case, which has been handled in such secrecy by officials, the fear that this is a "political" matter has unavoidably arisen. And if this is not the case, then the police should prove this to the public by taking legal action in the proper way and without so many catches, just as in cases that do not involve political problems, which, no matter how serious, are handled openly.

Human Rights In Thailand, a Major Problem that Has Spread Throughout the World

If you remember, on 8 December 1982, representatives from various human rights organizations, including the Lawyers' Association of Thailand, the Committee for Justice and Peace, the League for People's Rights, the Religious Activities Coordination Group for Society and so on, submitted a petition to General Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, appealing for justice in the cases concerning political assassination, or the assassination of influential people in the localities, and in the cases in which people have supposedly been arrested by officials and then disappeared. A total of 43 people were involved in such cases in 1982. These included laborers, local leaders and student leaders such as Silapasoet Phothikaeo, Phongsak Thiphatthraphaibun, Kamon Phienthamdi and Mrs Wimon Phienthamdi, who is presently very ill in her jail cell.

Besides this, this petition also expressed doubts about the Ministry of Interior's policy on forming a death squad. Concerning this, it cited Amnesty International's annual report, which summarized the human rights situation in the world and which also mentioned Thailand, saying that "Thailand has formed a death squad. Forces from special police units are being used to make arrests and prosecute cases without going through the proper procedures."

Even though Police General Narong Mahanon has denied that there is such a policy, the facts that have come to light cannot be dismissed with just a few words.

Because only 2 days after these human rights groups submitted this petition, Mr Monchai Saranakhom, a student at Ramkhamhaeng University, was assassinated on the night of 10 December in Thap Sakae Commune, Thap Sakae District,

Prachuap Khirikhan Province, while returning home. This occurred after the student demonstrations over the bus problem, in which Mr Monchai had been a leader for just a short time.

After that, there were reports that Mr Khamphun Wongkhan, the deputy secretary-general of the Iron and Metals Labor Union of Thailand, [had been shot]. But even though the gunman was arrested, laborers are still doubtful about whether [officials] have gotten to the bottom of this.

As for the case of Mr Saman, everything that the officials have done is clearly a violation of his basic rights.

The Right-Wing Wind That Is Affecting 66/1980

To date, there has been no clear statement by police officials as to what was behind the arrest of Mr Saman or as to why this case has not been handled in the usual way.

This case appears to be similar to the others that were mentioned above. Thus, this is another case that will help emphasize that people's human rights are definitely being violated in Thailand.

It has been observed that during the administration of General Prem Tinsulanon, Order 66/1980 has been relied on as an important operating principle. This order stresses eliminating the dark influences. And it provides for broad rights and freedoms for political groups. But in reality, people's human rights are still being violated and the dark influences are still active.

If Order 66/1980, which is an operating principle that is adhered to at the national level, was efficient and effective and if it was adhered to resolutely in order to actually solve the nation's problems, or even just those problems that concern people's rights and freedoms, there would no longer be such matters as this.

However, it is worth noting the present position of influential right-wing groups that stress using violence to eliminate those groups that hold political ideals different from theirs, particularly patriotics who love democracy, just as in the past. Even though their role has been reduced with the changes and developments over time, they still have influence. It's just that their role has been reduced for the moment.

Thus, people's human rights are still being violated, and people are still being arrested secret

In present political circles, it is thought that the influence of the conservative right-wing groups is on the rise again. This is based on data concerning who controls the power bases. This includes the military. Some officers who control important power bases have gained influence through the positions of high-ranking political persons and some political

parties that have joined the government. Economically, many of the new capitalists have been hurt by the economic actions of the old influences.

Recently, amidst the activities concerning the case of Mr Pridi Phanomyong, a senior statesman who played an important role in bringing democracy to Thailand, rather strong countermeasures were taken by right-wing groups. Some newspapers were warned and books were confiscated.

Thus, it is worth keeping an eye on the rise once again of the right-wing tide.

The case of Mr Saman Khongsukphon is being watched in order to see how it will be handled and to see whether this matter will be blown up further and affect the groups that Mr Saman was involved with, even though both these groups carry on their activities openly and within the framework of the law.

At a time when there is still no answer and when the cases of Mr Saman and the others before him are still a dark blot, I would like to conclude by posing a question about Police 66/1980 amidst the right-wing tide that is rising fearsomely: Is this policy just a piece of political propaganda?

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THAILAND

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ARMY UNITS REPORTED

Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai 4 Jul 83 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Results of Cavalry Seminar Revealed; Helicopters Requested to Form Anti-Tank Company"]

[Text] Directly Subordinate to Athit

The results of a cavalry seminar have been revealed and a report was made. The RTA CINC has asked to form a reconnaissance battalion and an aircavalry anti-tank company. There is relief that Vietnam will definitely not send troops to invade Thailand. As for the formation of the Special Combat Command, no progress has been made. Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy [CRMA], Class 5, says that various aspects have not been completed. The AAA Division has requested permission to have the 5th AAA Battalion of Prem's aide placed under its command.

A news source talked with MATUPHUM about the results of a seminar held by the Cavalry Center at Saraburi on 23-24 June. He said that the objective of this seminar was to determine what elements the cavalry lacked. But in adding these missing elements, as little money as possible will be requested from the army. It is expected that in 2-3 more years, it will no longer be necessary to form additional cavalry divisions.

The news report said that based on these conclusions, the cavalry lacks tanks. At present, it has only several regiments while, in principle, there must be at least one regiment in each division. And every regiment should have anti-tank weapons.

As for armored vehicles, the seminar concluded that the cavalry does not lack such vehicles at present. But it lacks tank units, or reconnaissance units, at the level of the battalions that are assigned to divisions. These will be responsible for increasing the firepower of each of the regiments that has its own dutes. When the cavalry divisions were first established, tank companies were formed. But when cavalry regiments were added in each division, the tank companies had to be divided among the various units and this created weaknesses.

The news report stated that it is essential to form tank units attached to the divisions. Because in a combat operation, each cavalry regiment will have different duties, and it will not be possible to reinforce or close the gaps of regimental-level units. Thus, in carrying out its duties, if a division finds that there are weaknesses, it will be able to throw in the division's tank unit if a tank battalion attached to the division is formed. Such a tank battalion will be referred to as a reconnaissance battalion.

Besides this, at the meeting, it was felt that in tank combat, an aircavalry company should be formed. This unit would be made directly subordinate to the RTA CINC in order to coordinate things closely with the cavalry divisions. The principle used to be that the best anti-tank weapon is another tank. But this has now changed. It is now thought that the best anti-tank weapon is an anti-tank helicopter.

Besides this, the people at the meeting also discussed the situation along the Kampuchean border. It is believed that Vietnam will not send forces to invade Thailand. Because, in addition to the problems inside Kampuchea, international politics, stemming from the conference of ASEAN ministers and dialogue partners, is an important factor that has led people to believe that Vietnam will not launch any military invasion. However, the forces now in existence are capable of dealing with an invasion from outside the country.

"Concerning the results of this seminar, Major General Prasong Krikun, the commander of the Cavalry Center, will submit a report to the RTA CINC," said the news source in conclusion.

At the same time, a news source in the army talked with MATUPHUM about the formation of the Special Combat Command, which will be equivalent to an army area and which will be commanded by Major General Phichit Kunlawanit. He said that this is still just an idea; no concrete steps have been taken. The formation of such a command requires a careful examination of the advantages and disadvantages and of the readiness on various fronts.

At the same time, an officer who is a member of CRMS's Class 5 told MATUPHUM that the formation of the Special Combat Command is just a rumor. At present, the 1st and 2nd special combat divisions are not at all prepared as far as manpower and other things are concerned. These units must be greatly strengthened before they will be complete special combat divisions. Thus, establishing a Special Combat Command today would be like forming a hollow division since the "insides" are still lacking.

However, concerning this matter, MATUPHUM has learned that, in principle, the 1st and 2nd special combat divisions will definitely have to be linked in the future and commanded by an officer of the rank of lieutenant general. When this happens depends on the budget.

As for the AAA Division, which is currently divided into two regiments, the 1st and 2nd AAA regiments, no action has been taken to expand this division except to allot forces and weapons for the AAA battalions, which are still undermanned. For example, last month, the AAA Division sent a note to the RTA CINC asking permission to have the 5th AAA Battalion, which is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Phairot Phanitsamai and which is now directly subordinate to the RTA CINC, placed under the command of the AAA Division.

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THAILAND

COLUMNIST HITS U.S. CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY, CITES 1973 UPRISING

Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai 18 Aug 83 p 3

[Around the World column by Trairat: "The United States Grows"]

[Text] The United States has great influence over various countries throughout the world. But, painfully, it has not been able to defeat neighboring countries. It isn't necessary to say anything about Cuba, and so we can forget about it here. Canada is not interested in having much to do with the United States. It does not trust the United States and has constantly been dissatisfied with "Uncle Sam's" attitude. The country that has been the greatest foe of the United States is Mexico. It has not been afraid to offend the United States. Sometimes, it has spoken out harshly. The Mexicans have had a deep feeling about this for a long time. Every Mexican leader has opposed the United States. What is done to strike back at the United States seems to please the Mexicans.

Most recently, President Ronald Reagan went out of his way to visit the city of Lepaz in Mexico to hold informal talks with President Miguel de la Madrid. He dressed very casually for his television appearance. The Mexican leader followed the style of a Spanish bull fighter and attacked Uncle Sam, saying that the United States cannot impose its will on the countries of Central America. Since even Mexico cannot accept this, how can the other countries in Central America allow this to happen. Even though Reagan objected that this was not the case, the United States has sometimes had to speak out loudly. Stated simply, it has had to hold military maneuvers and use the military to back diplomacy in Central America. If the enemy does not listen, even stronger measures may be taken. Reagan, referring to Cuba and Nicaragua, which have turned to the Soviet Union, said that these countries are trying to oppress and infiltrate Central America. He said that it is necessary to take a tough stance and speak out strongly since he wants to preserve democracy in Central America.

But that's a joke. Actually, Washinton's underlings in Central America are all dictators who have oppressed the people to the point where they can no longer stand it and have taken up arms and fled into the jungle. The United States is supporting the efforts of these governments to suppress

these people. Thus, these people have had to turn to Cuba or the Soviet Union for help. And so it has become a major affair. If the great powers would stay out of this and allow the people in these countries to solve the problems by themselves, things would soon be settled. In the end, the fight between the far right and the far left would come to an end.

The United States has raised the Nicaraguan matter as proof that the Soviet Union and Cuba are sending weapons to that country. [It claims] that Nicaragua is backing the revolution in El Salvador. Thus, the United States feels that it is essential to stop the flow of weapons into Nicaragua.

Speaking like a giant ogre, this is what I want....

If the Soviet Union jumped into the fray in Kampuchea and claimed that all the weapons being used to fight Heng Samrin were coming from Thailand and that it was necessary to stop the flow of weapons into Thailand, how would Thais feel?

The specifics of the problems in each place are different. In some places, the United States is far away and can only provide essential help. Its involvement just pressures countries to become communist even faster. Take South Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, for example. If the United States had not gotten so involved, these three countries may have stood a greater chance of becoming democracies.

Or take Thailand during the period of 14 October 1973. The people and students expelled the U.S. military bases and opposed the United States. If the Thai government had suppressed the Thai people over this matter, Thailand would have been thrown into turmoil. Luckily, that was a period in which the United States was withdrawing and so it did not push the government to oppose the people.

But the United States still has no power over Cuba. This is a period in which the United States is still very powerful. At present, the problem has spread into Central American. The United States hopes to use its influence to control matters. It has let out a "roar" first. But it may take stronger measures later on. Do you think this will achieve anything?

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THAILAND

COLUMNIST CALLS FOR MORE LPDR BORDER CHECKPOINTS

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 18 Aug 83 p 4

[MATICHON News Desk column by Duangta Wannasin: "Concerning Lao Border Checkpoints, Economic Benefits Should Be Considered Too"]

[Text] Sensational reports about border trade in Muk Da Han Province appeared soon after General Kriangsak Chamanan and his committee returned from Vientiane City.

This shows that when we open only a few checkpoints, goods flow out in the form of "smuggled goods." But what is even more troubling is that the illegal trade in the border area is carried out by influential people.

And these influential people are not alone. They rely closely on government officials.

The initial reports stated that customs officials were involved. As for how true this is, Mr Amnuai Yotsuk, the deputy minister of finance, has now formed a committee to investigate this matter.

Some news sources in Muk Da Han have confirmed that the border smugglers in this area have great power. One time, they used their power in the provincial ISOC to have an honest police official transferred out of the locality. This concerned smuggling, too.

The younger police officials in Muk Da Han want to put a stop to the smuggling. But the people involved and the smugglers have accomplices in government circles, and not just at the lower echelons. They have accomplices at higher levels, too.

In Muk Da Han, there is a long trail that runs along the Mekong River. It does not help just the "Green Star" group in their movements. Right-wing Lao groups roam about here and smuggle various types of goods. These goods are placed in sampans and motorboats and transported to Lao people.

The villagers in that area say that if they didn't have a lot of influence, it would be difficult to engage in smuggling so freely.

Thus, the recommendation by General Kriangsak Chamanan and Mr Phichai Rattakun that additional border checkpoints be opened is not concerned just with the trade benefits, with Laos and the Lao people viewed as another market for Thailand. What is more important is that instead of allowing goods to flow across as "smuggled goods," they will pass the checkpoints legally. Part of the profits will go to the merchants. And the country will earn an income from collecting taxes and duties instead of allowing the smugglers and corrupt officials who are secretly cooperating with each other to take all the profits.

Opening additional border checkpoints does not mean that the military defense measures will be done away with.

Opening additional border checkpoints does not mean that trade will be disorderly and uncontrolled. The correct way is to open checkpoints in a carefully planned way.

The first objective is to expand the trade markets for the merchants in our country. The next thing is to eliminate smuggling and the "by-products" of smuggling. Another goal is to provide help to a fraternal neighbor instead of allowing Laos to drift away and have no other option but to rely on Vietnam.

One good result that is clearly visible is the income that will be earned from selling goods. Another thing is that smuggling, which is harmful to the economy in general and which may even affect the border if any military blunders are made, will be eliminated.

In the end, smuggling could lead to a major dispute, which would result from smuggling alone and nothing else.

Even though the National Security Council and the Ministry of Interior continue to refuse to open any more checkpoints, they have made their decision on the basis of the security issue alone. There should be a recommendation to consider the economic benefits as well. Then, a suitable way out should be found by considering both the economic and security issues together so that we do not lose the profits that we should be making, so that smuggling can be eliminated and the loopholes closed and so that these profits do not fall into the hands of Singapore or other ASEAN allies unnecessarily.

What is important is not to close the door on this matter. We should be flexible and willing to make changes carefully. We should look at the effects on both the economic and security fronts. Stressing just one aspect is not correct, unless the situation becomes much more tense than it is at present.

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THAILAND

POSSIBILITY OF SPACE CENTER DISCUSSED

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 21 Aug 83 pp 1, 2

[Article: "Asian Nations Cooperate in Establishing Space Center In Thailand"]

[Text] Leading Thai scientists have joined with [scientists in] other Asian countries in building an Asian space agency. It has been revealed that southern Thailand would be suitable as a rocket launching site.

The 21 August issue of the DAILY NEWS, citing an interview with Mr Winit Khamsombun, a Thai scientist who works for the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), said that consideration is being given to establishing an Asian space agency in cooperation with 32 other countries in Asia. The plan is to build a rocket launching site similar to the one at Cape Canaveral in Florida. It has been found that southern Thailand is the most suitable location.

Mr Winit said that this idea first arose 2 years ago. This has been discussed with scientists in NASA. Also, scientists in various Asian countries have been contacted about this. They have expressed support for this, saying that Asia should have a space center since this will greatly benefit everyone concerned. For example, it will be possible to have international communications via satellite and to survey locations of natural resources.

Based on this idea, a provisional subcommittee has been established. Its task is to contact other countries in Asia. A conference was held on 6 October 1981 at the Anaheim convention Center in Anaheim, California. Many leading scientists from around the world attended this conference.

Mr Winit also said that the Thai government has been contacted and that it has approved this project. Contact was made through the Thai embassy in Washington D.C. in order to inform the government. The Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other sectors have discussed and approved this. In particular, the National Committee on Coordinating Surveys of Natural Resources Using Satellites has announced its support for this. Concerning this, Mr Prok Amornnan, the Thai ambassador to the United States at that time, informed him of this in a letter of 2 May 1981. Besides this, during the period that he served as the secretary-general of the National Research

Council, Mr Sawang Sapsi issued a memorandum on 1 April 1981 in support of this project.

Mr Winit said that the money to carry this out will be obtained from various countries. It is estimated that this will cost about 1 billion baht, with most of the money coming from Japan. If there is good cooperation, this project will definitely be completed. A general conference for representatives from the various countries will be held sometime around 1985.

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MUSLIMS DISADVANTAGED IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 24 Aug 83 p 3

[Article: Situation and Problems Concerning Education of Thai Muslims In The border Provinces"]

[Excerpt] On 23 August, the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Committee held a conference for representatives from the universities engaged in the project to promote education for Thai Muslim students in the southern border provinces. The conference was held at the conference hall of the Office of State Universities. At this conference, Lieutenant General Han Linanon, the commanding general of the Fourth Army Area, spoke on the topic "The Policy for Solving the Security Problem and the Policy of Providing Education for the Security of the Southern Border Provinces." This provided a rather clear picture of the special characteristics of education in this region. Thus, MATICHON is presenting his views in order to have additional data on another front.

The survey conducted by the Office of Private Education, with is attached to the Region 2 Education Office, compared the number of students of the Muslim faith who continued on to the first year of lower secondary school (Grade 7) after completing their compulsory education with the number of students of the Buddhist faith who did so in 1981 in Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat and Satun provinces. The results were:

Of the total 11,634 students of the Muslim faith, 6,907, or 59.37 percent, continued on in school. Of the 7,012 students of the Buddhist faith, 5,585, or 79.15 percent, continued on.

It can be seen that the percentage of Buddhist students who continued on to lower secondary school was 20.28 percent greater than that for Muslim students. And of the Thai students of the Muslim faith who continued on to Grade 7, 65.53 percent went to study at private schools that teach Islamic studies; only 32.47 percent entered Grade 7 at a public school.

In short, Thais of the Muslim faith like and have great faith in religion.

Comparing these figures with the total population of the area, it can be seen that very few Thai students of the Muslim faith continue on with a general education. Rather, they prefer religious studies.

The Ministry of Education and the sectors concerned have tried to find a way to encourage and help these students to continue their education.

However, some students have set their sights on getting a general education and on studying at one of the universities. But they have not had a chance to do so because of their inability to pass the examinations in competition with other students. This is because Muslim students have a poor foundation in the Thai language and because of this they do not do well in other subjects either. Thus, they cannot pass the competitive examinations.

A very important factor that has caused these students to have a poor foundation in the Thai language is that these students speak the local Malay language in their daily lives. Since their facility in the Thai language is not good, it can be said that their "learning tool" is inefficient and so educational achievement is low, too.

Since the goal is to develop the "people," who are a very important national resource, it is essential that a way be found to help raise their standard of living so that they can become efficient citizens of the nation.

"Education" plays a very important part in "developing people" so that they can think, achieve a good economic position and adjust themselves in order to have a happy life in society--which has an effect on national security.

The Southern Border Provinces Administrative Center and the Fourth Army Area have tried to coordinate things with every sector in order to help provide more Muslim students with an opportunity to continue their studies at educational institutions of various levels.

Concerning granting Muslim students special rights in accord with this, the Coordination Division of the Department of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior, has been doing this ever since 1971. It has entrusted the southern border provinces, with the exception of Songkhla Province, with the task of selecting, or testing, Thai students of the Muslim faith for further education at various institutions without the students having to pass the general entrance examination. Students have been selected for both the vocational and academic streams at both the college and university levels. For example, [Muslim students have been sent to] various technical colleges, postal schools and to central and regional universities.

In 1983, the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Center and the Fourth Army Area established a program to promote education in general for Muslim students in the southern border provinces. Activities were coordinated with 20 colleges and with Songkhla Nakharin University, all of which were located in the southern border provinces. They were asked to cooperate by allowing 260 students to come study without having to pass the entrance examination. This is a 5-year program that will be carried on during the period 1983-1987.

In implementing this program, the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Center and the Fourth Army Area are coordinating things with the local educational institutions. It is expected that this program will help solve various problems and achieve beneficial results for national security in the southern border provinces.

At the university level, there has been very good cooperation ever since 1971. Approximately 50 students a year have entered universities in accord with the Ministry of Interior's program and have studied in the field of their choice. But even so, this is considered to be too small a number since the number of students who finally graduate is not the same as the number who entered. And many of those who do graduate do not return to where they originally came from.

In particular, at present the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Center and the Fourth Army Area feel that Thais of the Muslim faith should have a chance to play a greater role in local administration and have an opportunity to work as government officials in various government units. They will serve as representatives of the government in forging better relations with the people on various fronts.

I am sure that if the Thai people of the Muslim faith play a greater role in developing the localities, security and order will spread throughout the southern border provinces and, therefore, wherever we live or wherever we go, we will feel safe and will not be afraid of people demanding ransom money or protection money.

Province	Total Population	Citizens of the Muslim faith	Muslims as a percentage of the total population
Narathiwat	397,840	312,156	78.46
Pattani	418,932	324,548	77.47
Yala	265,276	166,509	62.77
Satun	156,485	103,277	66.00
Songkhla	818,327	163,347	19.96
Total	2,056,860	1,069,837	60.93

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THAILAND

CHAO PHRAYA POLLUTION WORSENS; FISHING INDUSTRY LOST

Bangkok MATUPHUM In Thai 11 Jul 83 p 6

[Article by Phaibun Suksumek: "The Critical Condition of the Chao Phraya River, a Silent Warning Signal"]

[Text] The Chao Phraya River, the lifeline of the people living in the Central Region, runs for 370 kilometers counting from where it starts at the confluence of the Ping, Wang, Yom and Nan rivers in Nakhon Sawan Province. It flows past Chainat, Singburi, Ang Thong, Ayuthaya, Pathumthani, Nonthaburi and Bangkok and then emptys into the Gulf of Thailand at Samut Prakan. It isn't necessary to discuss the fact that this river has been important and valuable to the Thai people for hundreds of years.

What must be discussed is the fact that the Chao Phraya River, the lifeline of millions of people, is now "almost in a state of crisis." This is particularly true for the lower reaches of the Chao Phraya River, that is, the section from Ayuthaya on south to the Gulf of Thailand, which is more than 100 kilometers long.

The increase in the population, the expansion of the cities located along the banks of the river, the rapid establishment of large industrial plants, the uncontrolled use of the water, the draining of polluted water by people, factories and buildings and the waste-water disposal system used by the municipalities have all resulted in more and more filth and poisonous substances flowing into the Chao Phraya River.

The statement that the Chao Phraya River, particularly the lower reaches where there are many population centers, is almost in a state of crisis comes from a report from the Lower Chao Phraya River Water Quality Study Project of the Environmental Quality Standard Division, Office of the National Environment Board, which recently made a study and survey.

It is estimated that 270,000 kilograms B.O.D. of waste water and filth are released into the Chao Phraya River daily. Think about that. Day after day, people, factories, agricultural plants and other production factories use the Chao Phraya River as the main place for draining filth and waste.

From a survey conducted in 1979, [it was learned that] just 60 large industrial factories, including distilleries, paper mills, textile plants, tanneries, food processing plants and various other types of factories, release 67,289 kilograms B.O.D. of waste water a day. And this figure is for 1979. Now, 4 years later, the industrial plants located along the Chao Phraya River have expanded greatly. Now, beginning in the Bang Sai area, which is another place where the main branch of the Chao Phraya River converges with several other shorter tributaries such as the Pa Sak, Lopburi and Noi rivers, the banks of the Chao Phraya River are packed with industrial plants, crop silos and densely-populated communities. And so how much more filth and poison is being released into the Chao Phraya River?

Generally, organic materials that flow into rivers will dissolve naturally with the action of the air on the surface. Thus, the rivers can restore themselves using their length and a period of time. But at present, it is certain that in the lower Chao Phraya River, the amount of waste matter that is flowing into the river exceeds the level at which the river can restore itself naturally. Moreover, water levels are low in the summer, especially during the dry season. And the rise and fall of the water level from the influence of the ocean tides prevents the waste matter from being carried out to sea. This creates an even worse pollution problem in the river.

The fact that the Chao Phraya River is in a state of crisis is a very serious problem. If we remember that the water is consumed and used by millions of people who live along the banks of the Chao Phraya River, think how dirty the water that we drink must be. Even though there are movements to eliminate the filth, since the water is so polluted, its terrifying to think what is accumulating in our bodies. This is particularly true for those communities or people who do not have an opportunity to use water that has been purified.

Similarly, the water that is used in agriculture and animal husbandry is obtained from the Chao Phraya River. This water is used to water the crops and livestock on the farms, and this makes us wonder about quality and yields.

The Chao Phraya River, which was a large source of fresh-water fish, presently has few fish left in it. The "truth" is, even in the upper reaches of the Chao Phraya River from Nakhon Sawan to Ayuthaya, the fresh-water fishermen can no longer engage in fishing as their main occupation--if they expect to catch crab, fish and shrimp from the Chao Phraya River--unless they raise the aquatic animals themselves.

As for the lower Chao Phraya River, from the mouth of the river at Samut Prakan up to Pathumthani, it is no longer possible to engage in fresh-water fishing, except for the small catches of the villagers. At the mouth of the river, the brackish water can be used to breed some types of salt-water animals.

About 20 years ago, the lower Chao Phraya from Ayuthaya to Pathumthani was still an important source of fresh-water fish. Various types of fish traps and nets were regularly used all along the river. Many different types of fresh-water animals were caught and sent to feed the people in Bangkok and other localities.

The well-known shrimp from Ayuthaya were so abundant that they were used to make shrimp crackers and shrimp paste. Now, this is just history.

I can say that this matter has touched me closely, especially in the area where the rivers converge at Bang Sai, the birthplace of the main branch of the river, and in the "Lan The" area where there are small islets. This is where I was born, and I lived here during that period. I caught shrimp in the canals near the river using an ordinary net. One night, I caught more than 100 kilograms of shrimp. And these were large shrimp. People went fishing in front of the houses that lined the banks of the river. They caught various types of fish, especially during the fishing season, and sold them fresh or dried them to eat and sell during the dry season. It was easy to catch fish and shrimp in the rivers and canals here.

I do not know whether people of today are familiar with "sand snails" or not. These snails resemble the apple snail, although they are much smaller, being about the size of the small finger, and their coloring is brighter. At that time, whenever I went down to the wide, sandy banks of "Lan The" along the Chao Phraya River, I could easily catch handfuls of these delicious snails. But few people ate them since they were so abundant and people got tired of them. Now, I never see them anymore, even at the large markets that sell fresh-water animals wholesale.

I have no hope of these things ever returning since [the passing of] time and change cannot be avoided. There is no possibility of there ever again being large quantities of aquatic animals in the Chao Phraya River. While we have made much progress in other sectors, this loss, or the great decline in the amount [of aquatic life] is a very sad thing.

And this sadness stems from the fact that this loss is due to negligence and irresponsibility. We have never really supervised the use of the Chao Phraya River. We have always used water from the Chao Phraya in whatever way we wanted. And we have used the entire length of the river as a place to dispose of our garbage and filth.

There is still no law to control the use of the water. This law is still in the draft stage. There are controls to curb the disposal of waste water from the various factories, but we all know that [the factories] ignore this and try to get around the laws. People in government still lack knowledge concerning helping to preserve the important water sources such as the Chao Phraya River. And the government, which has the greatest responsibility for this, seems to have very little interest in this.

Thus, the almost critical condition of the Chao Phraya River is an important and very alarming problem at the present time. But it will probably prove very difficult to solve this problem quickly and resolutely. The problem of the Chao Phraya River is like other problems in the country that have not been solved, or that have been solved haphazardly, and that have been allowed to pile up. They have been ignored to the point where people have become indifferent and no one feels any sense of alarm.

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BRIEFS

PRASONG STATEMENT ON DK--Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, the secretary-general of the National Security Council, spoke about the reports that Khmer Rouge soldiers have killed many Kampuchean Muslims. He said that it is more likely that something of this sort has happened in Afganistan since, in Afganistan, the Soviet Union has killed many Muslims. It is not the Kampucheans [who are doing this]. As for Kampuchean Muslims, they fled from Kampuchea when the Vietnamese took over Kampuchea. Malaysia has been contacted in order to have it take in these refugees. "The Kampucheans know who is persecuting them. Heng Samrin has established a 'Day of Hatred' toward the Khmer Rouge. I think that the Kampucheans know which day is which. They know that the 'Day of Sorrow' is 7 January 1979--the day that Vietnam seized control of Kampuchea," said Squadron Leader Prasong. [Text] [Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 24 Aug 83 p 2] 11943

DROP IN ORE EXPORTS--The Department of Mineral Resources has revealed that the Thai mining industry, on both the production and export fronts, was very depressed during the first 6 months of the year. Production fell 33 percent, and exports fell 42 percent. The Economic and Information Division, Department of Mineral Resources, said that during the first 6 months (January-June) of 1983, the Thai mining industry was in a depressed state on both the production and export fronts. During the first 6 months of the year, ore production was valued at 4,182.1 million baht, which is a drop of approximately 33 percent as compared with the same time last year. Ore exports were valued at 3,497.4 million baht, which is a drop of about 42 percent as compared with the same period last year. Concerning almost every important type of export ore, such as tin, barite, lead, wolfram, "silite" and antimony, it is expected that both production and exports will decrease greatly. Only exports of a tin-lead-gypsum alloy and fluorite used in metalurgy will increase slightly. This recession is due to many things. But the important factor is that the world economy has been in a recession for several consecutive years now. This has reduced the purchasing power of the people. Thus, world demand for raw materials for industrial production has declined, too. In addition, the United States has implemented a policy of dumping ore and metals from its strategic stockpiles onto the world market. This has caused ore prices to decline even more. [Text] [Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 31 Aug 83 p 3] 11943

NEW SUBDISTRICT--The Ministry of Interior has established a new subdistrict in Narathiwat called Cha Nae Subdistrict. This went into effect on 15 July 1983. Yesterday (18 July), a report from Narathiwat Province stated that Rangae District has been divided to form the new subdistrict of Cha Nae. Formerly, this district had a total area of 829 square kilometers. It is located 24 kilometers from the Narathiwat provincial seat. It had 12 communes and 83 villages. The new subdistrict of Cha Nae is composed of two communes: Cha Nae Commune and Du Song Yo Commune. Furthermore, the announcement of [the formation of] this new subdistrict was made in order to do things in accord with the order issued by the Ministry of Interior. General Sitthi Chirarot, the minister of interior, was the one who signed the order to divide the locality and form a new subdistrict. This announcement went into effect on 15 July 1983. [Text] [Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai 19 Jul 83 p 3] 11943

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

BA DINH WARD COORDINATES PUBLIC SECURITY OPERATIONS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Sep 83 p 3

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel Nguyen Dinh Thanh, Commander of the Ba Dinh War Public Security Force: "Determined To Win Victory Over the Multifaceted War of Sabotage of the Enemy: Coordination in Depth"]

[Text] On the basis of the experience gained in coordinating the operations of the People's Public Security Force and the People's Army in the movement to maintain the security of the fatherland, Hanoi expanded this coordination to include the trade union organization and the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union. In the 9 months that the operations of the four forces mentioned above have been coordinated in Ba Dinh Ward, it has become the nucleus of the movement to maintain the security of the fatherland within the ward. It has made a competent contribution to combating reactionaries engaged in sabotage, profiteers, smugglers, persons who manufacture fake goods and persons who operate illegal businesses, combating robbers and persons who steal socialist property, maintaining social order and safety and maintaining the security of the agencies of the party and state as well as the agencies of foreign representatives.

From Breadth to Depth

During the first several months of 1983, the three forces routinely coordinated in patrols, guard duty, inspections and the suppression of the activities of saboteurs, hoodlums and gangsters, thereby helping to reduce the number of violations of criminal law. In the following months, relying upon information provided by the people and with the concern of the local party committee and people's committee, these four forces uncovered and dealt with many cases of profiteering and smuggling in the field of distribution and circulation, reclaiming for the state property worth more than 8 million dong while conducting inspections and taking action against hundreds of cases involving the illegal use of electricity.

The coordination of the four forces has played the key role in the enforcement of industrial and commercial tax law, the struggle against families who purchase and build large houses through illegally gained incomes and the struggle against the improper management and use of water.

The achievements that have been recorded show that the coordination of the four forces must be based on the revolutionary movement of the masses in order to achieve a combined strength and create a position from which initiative can be taken in the struggle against negative phenomena, the struggle to maintain social order and uphold the laws of the state. On this basis, Ba Dinh Ward has developed the coordination of these four forces not only in breadth, but in depth as well. To resolve the problems of public order and sanitation, the urban projects sector and the Sanitation Corporation have also been participating along with these four forces. When performing market management work, the ward people's committee also mobilizes the Finance Bureau, the Commerce Bureau, etc. On the basis of its actual experiences, Ba Dinh Ward has established, in the form of regulations, a mechanism for coordinating the various sectors, party committee echelons and basic governments. This mechanism has been implemented along each street and within each agency and enterprise within the ward.

Coordination Based on A Division of Labor

The effectiveness with which the operations of the four forces are coordinated depends not only upon the efforts of these forces themselves, but also upon the concern and guidance provided by the various party committee echelons and people's committees from the ward to the subward levels and by the party committees and specialized leadership committees of the agencies and enterprises of the central and local levels located within the ward. Not only must the ward and its subward have four forces to coordinate, there are also four forces that must be coordinated within each agency and enterprise. These are the specialized security force, the self-defense force, the workers' control committee and the security shock youth. Under the direct guidance of the specialized leadership committee and the party committee echelon, the four forces mentioned above are highly capable of coordinating and resolving problems involving negative phenomena within each agency and enterprise. When a violation of criminal law occurs, the four forces of agencies and enterprises closely coordinate with the four forces of the ward and subwards to create a network that tightly encircles criminals and prevents them from committing further criminal actions.

To be able to mobilize forces in a convenient and rapid manner that avoids waste, the people's committees and party committees of the ward and subwards regularly adopt specific plans concerning the utilization of forces, determine which jobs and areas are of key importance and establish a division of labor for each job based on the function of each force. For example, in the maintenance of public order at the Kim Ma and Long Bien Bus Depots, the People's Public Security Force is in charge of operations and the other forces participate. The forces of the trade union are in charge of the inspections conducted within department stores and food stores and the other forces participate. The security shock youth are in charge of cleaning and beautifying a number of main streets and the other forces participate.

The coordinated operations of these four forces under the guidance of the party committee and people's committee of Ba Dinh Ward have brought the people a sense of confidence in the effectiveness of the dictatorship of the proletariat state. This effectiveness is not only visible in the patrols and

guard duty along streets and lanes, but is also developing within each force in the form of specific operations conducted in accordance with its function and area of operation. This is coordination based on a division of labor and it is only on the basis of a good division of labor that the coordinated operations of the four forces can be highly effective.

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PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

OUTSTANDING YOUTH UNION MEMBERS ADMITTED TO PARTY

Hanoi TIEN PHONG in Vietnamese 16-22 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by Dong Khac Uyen of the HCMCYU [Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union]
Organization Department: "52,000 Outstanding HCMCYU Members Admitted to Party"]

[Text] According to incomplete reports of the provinces, the Municipal HCMCYU chapter, and the units directly under the HCMCYU Central Committee, as of 30 June 1983 7,302 basic-level Youth Union organizations totalling 1,000,769 members have received Youth Union cards.

The localities and units are endeavoring to, by the end of 1983, enable 50 to 60 percent of the Youth Union members to be fully qualified to receive cards.

In addition to education and training to improve the quality of Youth Union members, and to issuing Youth Union cards, many bases have paid attention to selecting and cultivating outstanding members and to recommending them to the party. In the first quarter of 1983, in 32 provincial and municipal chapters and in the armed forces 16,444 outstanding Youth Union members were admitted into the party, an increase of nearly 20 percent over the same period in 1982. In all, in the "the entire Youth Union participates in party building" campaign 52,598 outstanding Youth Union members have been admitted into the party.

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

PROBLEMS IN DELIVERING FISH TO HANOI DISCUSSED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 17 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by Tran Vinh: "State Purchasing of Ocean Fish at Present"]

[Text] Last year the maritime products sector purchased about 36 percent of the total shrimp catch and supplied to the municipality of Hanoi 7,500 tons of fresh shrimp and ocean fish and 7 million liters of fish sauce. This year the plan norm regarding the supplying of fish and fish sauce to Hanoi is greater than last year. During the past 7 months, the aquatic products sector delivered more than 5,700 tons of ocean fish and 5.2 million liters of fish sauce. But fish and fish sauce are still scarce in Hanoi. In all aspects -- production (raising and catching), state purchasing, processing, transportation, and ultimately the selling of goods to customers -- many problems must be resolved to achieve rationality and balance in order to encourage producers to develop the potential of aquatic products and so that sufficient goods reach the consumers.

No Shortage of Aquatic Product Sources

Every year about 450,000 tons of shrimp and ocean fish are caught. At present the state purchasing norm is only 36 percent of the total output. In 1982 Minh Hai purchased the largest amount -- 24,000 tons of shrimp and fish -- but that was only one-third of the total output. Cuu Long purchased 26 percent of the total output. Many coastal provinces in the south produce tens of thousands of tons of shrimp and fish and surpass their purchasing norms, but buy only 20 to 30 percent of the total amount of shrimp and fish in the locality.

This year ocean fish appeared early and were in plentiful supply. The provinces of the northern and central coastal areas are in the southern fishing season and more fish are being caught than in the past. Thus many localities have good conditions for purchasing goods. Quang Nam-Da Nang during the first 20 days of July bought 1,800 tons of shrimp and fish. Many places could not market shrimp and fish. The market prices are lower than the state purchase prices. In Nghia Binh and Quang Nam-Da Nang there was a successful flying fish season so the provinces could not purchase the entire catch. Fish sauce is an important aquatic product which is purchased in rather large quantities. This year the Central Aquatic Products Corporation of the Ministry of Marine Marine Products will, according to plan, deliver to the municipality of Hanoi 9

million liters of fish sauce. But if there are sufficient containers and transportation facilities the corporation can ensure the supplying of 15 million liters of fish sauce to Hanoi. At present, millions of liters of fish sauce are stagnating in the central coastal provinces. That phenomenon has greatly affected the tempo of fishing and processing in the localities. There is no shortage of aquatic products (fresh or dried shrimp and fish, fish sauce), but there are shortages of equipment, warehouses, and transportation facilities, and supply and support services for the aquatic products sector.

That situation has existed for many years and has limited production, state purchasing, and processing.

State Purchasing Must Serve Fishing Well and Protect the Aquatic Products Resources

The state has assigned the aquatic products sector responsibility for buying shrimp and fish. Many localities have improved the state purchasing of aquatic products. The phenomenon of setting up scales at river mouths and fishing piers and waiting for fishermen to bring fish to sell has greatly declined. A number of coastal provinces have organized units of purchasing boats and sent essential materials and goods, and even gasoline and oil, to the fishing areas. That method resulted in prompt supplying and created conditions for the fishermen to remain at sea to produce and to increase their labor productivity. Nearly all of the state purchasing stations implement limited contracting out and bonus-granting. The quality and quantity of products bought by the state improved.

This year the quantity of materials and POL [Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants] is not greater than in previous years and is too small in comparison to the production needs. But the planned volume of products that the state must purchase is greater. There has normally been a shortage of materials and POL, so many bases have taken all steps to economize in the use of materials and POL, in both supplying and production. The supplying of materials is calculated carefully, in accordance with the objects of production and state purchasing. Many localities have maintained and developed their fishing boats and nets and increased their production capability. Nghia Binh and Quang Nam-Da Nang provinces added hundreds of circle nets. The state assigned to the aquatic products sector responsibility for managing specialized fishing materials and supplying them to meet the needs of production in correct accordance with the nature of that vocation, the weather, and the season. This year responsibility for supplying POL for aquatic product production was assigned to the localities (provinces). POL is a material that is required for all trips to sea by ships and boats, and contributes importantly to obtaining production (shrimp and fish). The unharmonious supplying of POL directly affects the results of production. During the recent period some localities have received ample amounts of POL before they began the fishing season, while other places had not received any POL even though the fishing season had begun and there were many fish, or else the province had distributed the fuel to another sector which needed it more and thus the opportunity to catch shrimp and fish was lost. The "deals" that were made to supply sufficient POL to meet the production needs of the bases resulted in many shortcomings and negative deeds.

This year, in general the entire nation has had a successful ocean fishing season. The provinces of Nghia Binh and Quang Nam-Da Nang have purchased larger amounts and surpassed the plan norms, so the quantity of POL owed the localities had also increased by thousands of tons. Finding a way to ensure that POL reaches the fishing ships and boats promptly and in the proper season, and does not "run" to other places is a problem that has been posed for the aquatic products sector and the localities with fishing trades. The lack of cash and exchange goods has persisted for many years in the state purchasing task. Many places have overcome that problem by organizing merchandise funds and encouraging the fishermen to sell to the state on credit. The goods and materials to be exchanged must be tightly managed to ensure that they reach the fishermen. There have been instances of those things being used for other purposes, and some places have sold or exchanged them for profit.

To do a good job of purchasing aquatic products and supplying materials is in fact to make those tasks important parts of the production line of the aquatic products sector. State purchasing must meet the needs of production and stimulate production. Only on that basis can the products available for state purchasing be increased.

Some places have concentrated very strongly on purchasing maritime products for export. Many fishermen have changed over to catching maritime products for export and have stopped catching shrimp and fish to meet domestic needs. Therefore, the results of state purchasing have not been satisfactory and have not met the local needs for shrimp and fish. The plans for producing aquatic goods for export must be in balance with state purchasing, and there must be a clear division of labor to avoid upsetting the vocational structure and disturbing the aquatic products market. The storage and transportation of aquatic products have long been difficulties which the aquatic products sector has often not been able to overcome. There are still serious shortages of storage facilities, warehouses, and processing bases. The southern coastal provinces often have surpluses of shrimp, fish, and fish sauce but have no storage facilities. In 1982, in order to transport 6 million liters of fish sauce the Central Aquatic Products Corporation required 90,000 plastic containers (the food container type) but it had only 80,000. In 1983 it will have to transport 9 million liters of fish sauce. To do so the corporation will require 120,000 plastic containers but it has only 60,000 (including those that are in need of repairs or are unavailable because they have been borrowed by the Hanoi Foodstuffs Corporation and other organs). The shortage of containers and the prolonged stagnation have limited the turn-around time of fish sauce containers. The way to transport a large volume of aquatic products is by railroad. The main concern is to transport fish and fish sauce from the south to the north. Every year it is necessary to transport about 5,000 to 6,000 tons of goods to the north, but practically no goods move south. It takes 7 days for a shipment from Phan Thiet to reach Hanoi. But some shipments take 2 or 3 months. Many difficulties are also encountered in rail transportation: railroad cars and equipment are lacking or broken down, etc.

The aquatic products sector has taken many steps to overcome the above-mentioned difficulties, such as by fully utilizing all transportation facilities, both land and maritime. The Central Aquatic Products Corporation set up a

transportation truck group and went all-out to ensure the transportation of half of the aquatic product volume. In July of this year the Central Aquatic Products Corporation transported 997,000 liters of fish sauce from Phan Thiet to Hanoi, and intends to go all-out in August to deliver 1 million liters of fish sauce to Hanoi.

At present the aquatic products sector is responsible for all aspects, from production (raising, growing, catching) to state purchasing, storing, processing, and exporting. The home trade sector is responsible for the final phase, the distribution of aquatic products to consumers. The aquatic products sector is going all-out to ensure the delivery of sufficient quantities of increasingly higher quality aquatic products. The distribution of goods to consumers in a manner that meets the needs quantitatively and qualitatively is entirely the responsibility of the home trade sector. There is no shortage of aquatic products. The fishermen are prepared to sell high-quality shrimp and fish to the state. If it does a better job of purchasing, transporting, and distributing aquatic products, it is certain that the state will master the aquatic products market, instead of controlling only 30 to 40 percent of the shrimp and fish, as at present.

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AGRICULTURE

NHAN DAN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Sep 83 p 2

[Interview with Nguyen Ngoc Triu, minister of agriculture: "'The 10 Ton Village and District Club' and the High Rice Yield Movement"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Editorial Note: Continuous bumper crops have been recorded over the past 3 years. Many places have recorded record high rice yields. NHAN DAN Newspaper, beginning with issue number 10538 on 4 May 1983, began a column entitled "The 10 Ton Village and District Club." In preparation for this column, we interviewed Nguyen Ngoc Triu, the Minister of Agriculture, concerning intensive cultivation and the production of high rice outputs. Below are the questions and responses of that interview.

Question: Sir, over the past several years, the entire country has recorded bumper crops and very many places have achieved quite high rice yields. NHAN DAN Newspaper has started a column entitled "The 10 Ton Village and District Club." Would you give us your view of our intensive cultivation capabilities and their effect upon the effort to resolve the grain problem?

Answer: Before answering this question, I would like to discuss a few viewpoints concerning the resolution of the grain problem in our country. The entire country is clearly producing bumper crops. Recently, however, when we were discussing the long-range plan for resolving the grain problem, we noticed a few unusual viewpoints, such as: why must we continue to raise rice, raise subsidiary food crops and grain crops? Why do we not concentrate our efforts on raising several industrial crops as main crops in order to export them and import grain?

Very regrettably, we do not have what we need. Five to seven years are needed for a number of industrial crops to begin producing products for exportation. Where are we to obtain our food during these years? Should we borrow money and go in debt, that is, eat our food and pay for it later? True, our agricultural production must be comprehensive in nature and involve the production of many different crops and species of livestock. However, in order for agriculture to be the base of socialist industrialization in the initial stage and during the period of transition, agriculture itself must be based on grain production.

Producing grain is not easy. Take this year's 10th month season, for example. At present, the rice crop is growing well. However, the success of this crop will not be guaranteed until "the paddy is in the basket, the straw is in piles." The developed industrial countries still encounter difficulties with agriculture. In our country, industry is not strong and our tropical climate and weather are advantageous in some respects but detrimental in others, consequently, our difficulties with agriculture are even greater. In fact, all production is a struggle between man and nature, between man as a person and man in society. However, in agriculture, the two aspects of this struggle are more bitterly fought than in the other sectors. In the final analysis, man continues to be the decisive factor.

In the 1970's, our country's agriculture developed for a time but, as a whole, virtually stood still. Since 1980, agriculture has taken clear strides forward, especially in the production of rice. This is consistent with the realities of our country, consistent with the needs of life, with our habits, scale of production and capabilities in the cultivation of rice. The change that has occurred in this area has created the conditions for changes elsewhere.

Question: Has this change been reflected in marked increases in yield and output?

Answer: Yes, it has. During the past 3 years, the rate of increase in grain output has risen rapidly, from 7 to more than 10 percent per year, which is a record in the history of grain production. It is a record compared to other countries as well. Models of high yields, of a high level of intensive rice cultivation are no longer small scale and scattered about a few areas, rather, they have emerged over broad areas in all regions and terrains of the country.

This significant achievement confirms the correctness of making intensive cultivation our basic guideline. We must practice intensive cultivation in conjunction with multicropping and the opening of new land to cultivation. The potentials that lie in the intensive cultivation of rice are very large and we have yet to reach our limit in this area. However, we should ask ourselves whether or not we can maintain this present rate of growth. or, will we only be able to maintain it under certain circumstances, that is, with the blessing of nature?

Question: Some persons maintain that "when a bumper crop is recorded, it is as a result of our efforts; when a crop fails, the weather is to blame." Would you please analyze the causes of the high yields that have been recorded?

Answer: The Ministry of Agriculture is preparing to hold a conference in Quang Nam-Da Nang, not to review intensive cultivation, but to exchange experiences concerning it and launch an emulation movement to implement the resolution of the 3rd Party Plenum and establish high yield rice growing areas where yields range from 8 to 10 tons. There was a time when our slogan was try for 5 tons. Back then, many persons skeptically asked: is this possible? then, Thai Binh achieved the target of 5 tons per hectare. The skepticism, however, remained: was the measurement accurate?

The facts, themselves, answered that question.

Recently, NHAN DAN Newspaper began a very good column entitled "The 10 Ton Village and District Club." On the one hand, this column will propel and inspire the movement. On the other hand, a number of places are concerned by the fact that they are not members of the club. This proves that these places have the ability to achieve high yields.

Question: Sir, have not many places recorded high yields in the face of difficulties with supplies and complex developments in the weather?

Answer: This is true. Over the past 3 years, actually, for 7 seasons in a row, many complex changes have been occurring. In 1980, for example, violent natural disasters occurred but total output for the year was 14.4 million tons of grain (output in 1979 was only 13.8 million tons). In fact, does not a natural disaster occur during the winter-spring season (for example, the recent 1982-83 winter-spring season) when the ground is hard, the weather is cold for long periods and serious dryness develops? In the winter-spring seasons of 1974 and 1976, seedling crops were lost and hundreds of thousands of hectares could not be put under cultivation. In particular, when drought occurs just as the rice is forming tassels and heading (as was the case during the recent winter-spring season), it is a serious problem and generally causes output to drop by 20 to 30 percent. Why, under such weather conditions, are some places able to record bumper crops while other places (such as Tien Hai District in Thai Binh Province, for example) suffer crop failures and why in these districts that suffer "isolated crop failures" are some cooperatives still able to record bumper crops? At the start of this year's winter-spring season, many persons were concerned about a crop failure. In the end, we recorded our highest yield and output ever during that season.

Question: Sir, how do you explain this situation?

Answer: There is never just one reason for a bumper crop. Rather, there are many reasons, all of which have an impact upon and stimulate one another. It is both incorrect and unrealistic to say that there is only one reason. However, it is possible to find one reason of decisive significance during each period of time. Considering each reason to be of equal importance does not solve the problem. We have adopted a correct agricultural development line, this is one reason. This line has been made even clearer by the resolution of the 5th Party Congress. All sectors and levels have been guiding agriculture and focusing their attention on supporting agriculture, the front of most importance. Material-technical bases have been developed. The supply of technical materials has increased (although not by much). Another reason is the weather; at certain times and places, the weather has been good.

However, the reason of decisive significance is the fact that we have adopted a new policy, one that provides incentive for agricultural production (even though this policy still has certain limitations), and improved the management of agriculture both within this sector and at each installation.

The correct line that we have adopted is merely the premise, it does not directly result in the production of products. Human effort is needed to turn this line into reality. Agricultural production requires certain material-technical bases and technological advances. However, the effectiveness with which these material-technical bases are utilized in production and these technological advances are applied depends upon human effort. In the process of his labor, man is always being creative. Thus, it is not merely a matter of scientists creating technology and the masses simply accepting and putting this technology to use. Rather, the masses also develop many new techniques in the course of their work. Technicians must give their attention to studying and reviewing the experiences of the masses. One such example is the plowing of dry fields during the winter to plant spring soybeans at the Tan Moc Cooperative in Ha Bac; another is the direct planting of rice, field millet and ground millet in the South, etc. Without material-technical bases, it is impossible to carry out production. However, these bases do not operate themselves. Rather, they must be put to use through the creative activities of man. Man understands these bases and uses them correctly. In the past, the same bases existed but they were not being used well. Now, they are being utilized better.

To engage in agricultural production without attaching importance to nature is incorrect. It is incorrect to talk about recording a bumper crop and not talk about nature. It is equally incorrect to not mention natural conditions when talking about crop failures. The main thing is to learn the laws of nature, to avoid adverse circumstances and take advantage of favorable circumstances. Some places have taken advantage of favorable circumstances and some have not. The weather during the recent winter-spring season, it must be said, was severe. When such weather occurred several years ago, it would have been impossible to put some fields under cultivation. How could water sources be found in such dry conditions? The ground was so hard that a side dressing of fertilizer could not be applied and a bumper crop could not be recorded. During this year's winter-spring season, in contrast to previous years, a larger supply of fertilizer, especially organic fertilizer, was available; nitrogen fertilizer was delivered to installations in a more timely fashion. The soil was prepared more thoroughly. When seedlings died, some farmers planted more. When the cold weather posed difficulties to seedlings, farmers managed their crops so that stiff, well-bunched, high quality seedlings were raised. Each year, rice varieties are improved. If some land is transplanted late, the varieties being used are still suited to the weather, etc.

Why is it that these very same farmers once went to work late and left early, cared for their 5 percent plots better than the fields of the cooperative, did slipshod, careless work and relied upon others instead of taking the initiative? Through the new management mechanism, we have closely linked the responsibility to work with the results of labor, with remuneration for work performed, thereby creating a dynamic force that has spread to the other factors and resulted in the production of many more products. But we should not say that contracting itself has created products. More correctly stated, contracting has created enthusiasm, created an inner strength that has brought about changes in the other areas.

Thus, the labor of man is a significant factor. With a good motive for working, the necessary conditions in terms of technical materials and good weather, man can work better. When difficulties with the weather are encountered, man looks for every way to overcome them.

Question: There is one point concerning which there is still some confusion: why has Nam Bo been able to record bumper crops when it has only a few cooperatives and production collectives and only a number of places that are using product contracts?

(The minister stood up, picked up a report and read to us some facts concerning increases in yields, output and the amount of area under cultivation in each area, such as former Zone 4, the Red River Delta, the Mekong River Delta and so forth).

Answer: So you see, the Red River Delta has recorded a significant increase in yields, an increase that demonstrates that there is still potential to be developed. The Mekong River Delta has also increased its yields but to a lesser degree; meanwhile, the amount of area under cultivation has not increased. I maintain that because of many different reasons, one of them being the impact of a number of new policies, Nam Bo will continue to record bumper crops. It has the ability to increase its output much more rapidly but has not increased it rapidly compared to potentials, and this is primarily due to the matter of production relations. Nam Bo has yet to complete the transformation of agriculture. In actuality, at those cooperatives and production collectives that are well organized and managed and that have implemented the management mechanism rather well, increases have been higher than at places that do not have collectives or cooperatives.

Question: Sir, suddenly, we are giving thought to uniformity. How can the degree of uniformity be raised in agriculture?

Answer: Only relative uniformity can be achieved. Because, the laws governing the development of things include the law of uneven development. It is necessary to develop the potentials that lie within each area in order to gradually raise the level of uniformity. In our country at this time, the land used to raise rice can generally be divided into five types: good soil on which a high level of intensive cultivation can be practiced; poor, depleted soil; low-lying, swampy land; coastal, acidic and saline soil; dry land for which no water is available, etc.

The allocation of crops and rice varieties is based on the nature of the soil in each different area. We must make full use of each class of soil and adopt suitable technical measures. Every place must create the conditions for intensive cultivation. Of course, not all places can have the same yields or rate of increase in yields. However, every place can produce many more products than were produced in the past.

Question: There are some who maintain that our management mechanism is, generally speaking, a good one and is being improved but still fails, in certain respects, to truly provide incentive for production within agriculture. What are your thoughts concerning this?

Answer: I know that. There are still many questions. There are even some places at which farmers are not enthusiastic about production and do not want to make additional investments in order to practice intensive cultivation. At some places there is concern over the fact that the grain obligation has been stabilized but not the total amount of grain mobilized; at other places, there are questions about the supplying of materials, about the implementation of two way contracts, about the establishment of agricultural product prices, about the payment of water conservancy fees, etc.

This is a situation that must be examined and studied. For example, we definitely must fulfill grain obligations and mobilize increasingly large amounts of grain; however, we must determine a reasonable percentage of grain output to mobilize, a percentage that maintains the relationship among the three interests. We must also improve upon the management mechanism and continue to introduce new policies. The crux of the matter is the need to maintain harmony among the three interests. And, those policies that are adopted must be reasonable.

Question: I would like to return to the matter of intensive cultivation. The effort to build high yield rice areas is becoming a movement. Could you give us some additional information about this movement?

Answer: This is a correct policy, a good method of providing guidance, one that has helped to promote intensive cultivation and create the conditions for developing the potentials that lie in our arable land and labor better. Many places have implemented this policy. However, a slight correction should be made concerning the prerequisites needed to establish a high yield rice growing area. We have only been talking about one pre-requisite: a high level of intensive cultivation. But, light attention has been given to building high yield rice areas at places where the average amount of cropland per capita is high. At these places, yields are not high and the level of intensive cultivation is still low; however, they have large potentials and can rapidly increase both yield and output. And, the output produced in these areas is usually very large.

Of course, each place has adopted intensive cultivation procedures that are suited to it. Generally speaking, however, certain similarities can be seen at those places that have achieved high yields: to begin with, all have displayed a high spirit of collective ownership, displayed self-reliance and not waited for or relied upon others; they have adopted advanced techniques and applied them in a manner suited to their locality; and they have taken the initiative in creating the conditions for the intensive cultivation of the next crop as soon as one crop has been harvested. Some places have prepared more than 30 percent of the necessary conditions in advance; in their management, we frequently find a corps of cadres who dare to think, dare to act and know what to do. Intensive cultivation does not merely take place at installations, rather, it is closely linked to the district level, to the service organizations within the district. The gradual improvement of the management mechanism is essentially designed to insure the harmony of the three interests.

Intensive cultivation must also go hand in hand with increasing the amount of area under cultivation by means of multicropping. The potential for multicropping is still very large. The coefficient of cropland use on a nationwide basis is only 1.2; in the North, it is 1.6; in the Red River Delta, it is 1.8; in the South, it is 1.2; and in the Mekong River Delta, it is less than 1.

To strengthen the practice of multicropping, the North must focus its efforts on fertilizing its crops and producing much fertilizer, especially collecting much livestock manure. It is not because we lack nitrogen fertilizer that livestock manure should be used, livestock manure itself is of high value (based both on scientific analysis and actual use). From Nghe Tinh and Binh Tri Thien southward, bold steps must be taken to change seasonal schedules and practice multicropping; it is necessary to establish a suitable allocation of varieties, build water conservancy systems and acquire additional draft power.

In summary, we have made progress in intensive cultivation and have the ability to expand and raise the level of intensive cultivation in order to continue to record bumper crops. However, in agriculture, one is never permitted to think that because the last crop was a bumper crop, one bumper crop will follow another in a straight line progression. There is a situation that exists in agriculture that is something of a law: after several years of bumper crops, a year of crop failures occurs. We have fought many types of unstable weather but are still not able to fully conquer nature.

Question: As you observed above, NHAN DAN Newspaper's introduction of "The 10 Ton Village and District Club" column is a good step. As an agency of the state, what will the Ministry of Agriculture do to join NHAN DAN Newspaper in the effort to more strongly stimulate the movement to raise high yield rice crops?

Answer: This is something for which we have already made preparations. (He was holding a handwritten draft). We have drafted a plan for coordinating with NHAN DAN Newspaper to stimulate the movement. For example, the Ministry of Agriculture will establish a Golden Book in which we will record the names of those installations that average 8 to 10 tons per hectare. The ministry has established a specific standard for each area and each place. For example, in the lowlands, the districts and cities that raise two rice crops must record average yields in excess of 8 tons and the cooperatives and production collectives that raise two rice crops must exceed 9 tons; places that raise one rice crop per year must record an average yield in excess of 5 tons (if calculated on the basis of an entire district) or more than 6 tons (if only one cooperative). Are these targets too high? In the mountains and the Central Highlands, the targets are lower. We will launch a sector-wide emulation movement to achieve the target of 8 to 10 tons in keeping with the spirit and contents of the resolution of the 3rd Party Plenum. Any place that meets its target will be awarded a "skilled intensive cultivation unit" banner affixed to which will be either a single silver star (if the unit raises one rice crop per year), two stars (if it raises two rice crops per year) or three stars (if it raises two rice crops and one subsidiary food crop per year). We will conduct a review and introduce these skilled intensive cultivation units to join "The 10 Ton Village and District Club" of NHAN DAN Newspaper.

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AGRICULTURE

HA SON BINH PROVINCE REPORTS ON 5TH MONTH-SPRING RICE CROP

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Sep 83 p 2

[VNA News Release: "Ha Son Binh Exchanges Experiences in Skilled Agricultural Production"]

[Text] Ha Son Binh Province recently held a conference to exchange experiences regarding the emulation in skilled agricultural production among the cooperatives that recorded high rice yields during the recent 5th month-spring season and, at the same time, discuss ways to cultivate and protect the 82,000 hectares of 10th month rice in order to achieve an output of 240,000 tons of paddy and raise total grain output in 1983 to 480,000 tons, 20,000 tons higher than in 1982.

During the recent 5th month-spring season, 41 cooperatives in the lowland districts of Ha Son Binh Province recorded average yields of 40 or more quintals per hectare. In the mountain's, 24 cooperatives averaged 30 or more quintals per hectare. The cooperatives of Ha Hoi (Thuong Tin District) and Binh Minh and Phu Lam (Thanh Oai District), which have average yields in excess of 50 quintals per hectare, shared their experiences in the skilled intensive cultivation of rice and the successful production of winter crops and in increasing the output of grain, accelerating livestock production and developing the other trades.

The Lien Bat Cooperative (Ung Hoa District), which has nearly 600 hectares of farmland, has initiated intensive cultivation and raised crop yields by balancing crop production with livestock production.

The Le Thanh Cooperative (My Duc District), as a result of applying advanced techniques in seed and fertilizer production, protected its seedlings from dying and saved 10 to 15 tons of seed paddy despite the prolonged cold weather at the start of the 5th month-spring season.

The advanced cooperatives maintain that, despite the results mentioned above, the winter-spring production season of Ha Son Binh Province still reflected certain shortcomings. Only 65 of the 771 cooperatives in the province recorded average yields in excess of 30 quintals per hectare. The output of rice increased but subsidiary food crop output declined by 6,700 tons compared

to 1982. The output of industrial crops and exported crops increased slowly and the production of these crops was unstable. The various localities failed to fully measure the difficulties posed by the weather in order to take the necessary measures. Some places failed to strictly adhere to their seasonal schedule, as a result of which many seedlings died, seed was wasted and crops were transplanted late.

Ha Son Binh has promptly corrected the shortcomings of cooperatives and provided them with guidance in order to make good preparations for the upcoming 5th month-spring season, beginning with cultivating and protecting 10th month rice.

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AGRICULTURE

DOMESTIC AGRICULTURE SITUATION DISCUSSED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 19 Aug 83 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Nation Attains 66 Percent of 10th Month Rice Planting Norm"]

[Text] Competing to achieve accomplishments to commemorate the August Revolution and to celebrate National Day (2 September), the peasants all over the nation planted 2,227,000 hectares of 10th month rice, 66 percent of the area plan norm.

The northern provinces are concentrating on 10th month rice production under the conditions of the weather changing in a more complicated manner than ever. There was serious drought from the end of the winter-spring season to about mid-July, when typhoon No 3 came ashore. There were prolonged sun, heat, and westerly wind, and low atmospheric humidity and a high degree of evaporation, which created difficulty for soil preparation. There was no water to sow seedlings and many seedlings died. Insects and diseases appeared in a complicated manner; there were many types which appeared early and at the same time.

The intensive cultivation material-technical bases of the 10th month season are scarce and incomplete. Especially, draft power, fuel, electricity, oil, fertilizer, and insecticide have not yet met the needs of production.

Having overcome difficulties, by mid-August the collective peasants in the northern provinces had planted 1,127,000 hectares, 85.5 percent of the plan norm. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the northern provinces have essentially completed the planting of the 10th month rice area, and 85 to 90 percent of the area was transplanted during the best part of the season. The provinces which surpassed the area plan norms were Hai Hung, 100.1 percent; and Nghe Tinh, 106.3 percent. Ha Nam Ninh and Thai Binh attained 97 to 98 percent of their planting norms.

During this year's 10th month season the land was plowed and the rice was transplanted, took root, and rapidly turned green. The cooperatives are tending and fertilizing the rice in order to attain the highest possible yields and output. In addition to weeding, the cooperatives are mobilizing composted manure and chemical fertilizer in order to spread supplementary fertilizer on the rice early so that it can tiller rapidly and effectively. On the average,

each hectare of rice has been fertilized with five tons of manure, much more than in previous years.

In the southern province there was rain, which accelerated the planting rate. However, because the rainfall was not uniform and some places were even drought-stricken, which adversely affected soil preparation. By mid-August the localities had planted 1.1 million hectares of 10th month rice, 53.3 percent of the plan norm.

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AGRICULTURE

NORTHERN PROVINCES SURPASS FIFTH MONTH-SPRING RICE NORM

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 21 Aug 83 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Northern Provinces Attain 108.6 Percent of Fifth Month-Spring Grain Norm"]

[Text] As of 15 August the provinces and municipalities in the north attained 108.6 percent of the over-all 1983 fifth month-spring plan norm. The stabilized grain obligation amounted to 556,000 tons, 100.9 percent of the plan norm. The amount of grain purchased beyond the obligatory level was 122.4 percent of the plan norm assigned at the beginning of the season. Fourteen provinces and municipalities, 120 districts, and 3,344 agricultural cooperatives surpassed the plan norms assigned them. Some provinces and municipalities surpassed their over-all mobilization norms by large margins: Vinh Phu, 151.9 percent; Quang Ninh, 130.8 percent; Hanoi, 129.7 percent; Hai Phong, 120.5 percent; Nghe Tinh and Bac Thai, 119 percent; Thanh Hoa, 113.7 percent; Ha Son Binh, 111.2 percent; and Ha Bac, 111.1 percent. The provinces of Hai Hung, Ha Nam Ninh, Hoang Lien Son, Binh Tri Thien, and Thai Binh fulfilled more than 100 percent of their over-all grain mobilization norms. After fulfilling their plans, the provinces of Zone 4, the midlands, and the lowlands positively promoted purchasing beyond the obligation in order to fulfill the supplemented norms. The mountain-region provinces attained only 72.1 percent of the over-all mobilization norm and 85.3 percent of the stabilized obligation.

The subsidiary food crop mobilization results were even lower. The northern provinces had purchased only 3,505 tons of corn and 7,500 tons of potatoes in paddy equivalent.

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AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN BEN TRE, KIEN GIANG

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 17 Aug 83 pp 1,4

[VNA News Release: "Ben Tre Sets Up 420 Production Collectives, 835 Units Contract Out Production During Summer-Fall and 10th Month Seasons; Kien Giang Distributes 30,000 Hectares to 30,000 Peasant Families With Little or No Land, Provides Work for More Than 40,000 Agricultural Workers"]

[Text] Ben Tre Province has concentrated on consolidating 650 production collectives and seven agricultural cooperatives, while also building water conservancy projects and developing production. Eighty-five of the 156 production collectives in Ben Tre completed their in-field canal and ditch systems. Many collectives did a good job of expanding the collective ownership relationship.

The production collectives in the districts of Giong Trom and Mo Cay collectivized their draft power (water buffaloes, oxen, and machinery). The agricultural committees of the districts of Chau Thanh and Giong Trom, and the city of Ben Tre, helped the collectives buy 38 cultivators from the state, and expanded and strengthened the technical equipment of the collective economic units. The production collectives in the districts of Giong Trom, Mo Cay, and Cho Sach rezoned their fields and created high-yield rice areas.

Ben Tre concentrated on consolidating, and improving the quality of contracting-out of, 31 percent of the production collectives, overcame the situation of blank-check contracting-out in a number of collectives, and collectivized land. As a result, of 435 collectives contracting out production, Ben Tre consolidated and rectified 380 units. The corps of collective management cadres was strengthened.

In addition to consolidating, Ben Tre developed 420 additional collectives -- thus increasing the number of collectives in the province to 1,080 -- and collectivized about 28,500 hectares out of a total of 94,000 hectares in the province. Nearly all of the recently created collectives have applied the contracting out of production and collectivized the land and the other principal means of production. All of the units had economic and production plans, carried out the tasks well, and ensured the formation of true production collectives. Only then did they change over to contracting out production.

During the summer-fall and 10th month seasons of 1983 in Ben Tre 835 production collectives and seven cooperative out of a total of 1,080 units contracted out production.

Since the liberation Kien Giang has readjusted 30,000 hectares of land and distributed them to 30,000 peasant families with little or no land so that they can produce, and in order to provide employment for 40,000 agricultural workers.

This year Kien Giang, having gained experience in investigating and readjusting land in recent years, especially actual experience in the villages of Mong Tho and Dong Thai in Chau Thanh and An Bien districts, is investigating and readjusting land in 31 villages in districts with much agricultural land, such as Giong Rieng, Tan Hiep, An Bien, Chau Thanh, Hon Dat, Vinh Thuan, and Go Quao. The party committee echelons have concentrated on guiding and organizing the implementation of that task within the party and among the popular masses. They have which families have little or no land and those which have surplus land, and have readjusted and distributed land among the peasants to facilitate production. Many villages and hamlets have given priority to families of war dead, disabled veterans, and servicemen, and families with merit toward the revolution, by setting aside for them good land that is near their homes.

The districts of Giong Rieng, An Bien, Tan Hiep, and Chau Thanh have combined the investigation and readjustment of land with the setting up of solidarity teams and production collectives. After the land was readjusted, all peasant families in Tan Hoi Village, Tan Hiep District, had land on which to produce. On that basis, the village's hamlets helped one another set up eight collectives and 70 production solidarity teams. The party chapter and masses of Ngoc Hung Village in An Bien District resolutely struggled against a party member and a rich peasant family who owned much land, and distributed 88 hectares to 12 hired-labor peasant families and 85 landless families, in order to be in time for the summer-fall production season. Ngoc Hung Village established 19 production directives.

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